

Join More Than 18,000 Physicians and Medical Students in Support of Single-Payer National Health Insurance



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It's time to add your voice!



Physicians for a National Health Program

www.PNHP.org

THE U.S. HEALTH CARE CRISIS: HURTING PATIENTS AND PHYSICIANS

The statistics are staggering. Over 50.7 million Americans are uninsured. More than 44,000 adults die annually from lack of coverage, according to the American Journal of Public Health. Tens of millions more Americans are “under-insured,” lacking sufficient coverage for vital care and medications. Health care costs are rising steeply. Skyrocketing malpractice premiums and insurance hassles are driving good physicians out of practice.

The U.S. spends enough on health care – over \$8,000 per person in 2009 – to provide care for all. However, paperwork and administrative overhead devours one-third (31 percent) of every health care dollar. Regrettably, the health bill that passed in 2010 will still leave 23 million uninsured by 2019 and won't control costs.

A not-for-profit, single-payer financing system would save \$400 billion annually by streamlining administration – enough to cover all of the uninsured and to upgrade coverage for all (NEJM, 8/21/03).

PHYSICIANS' PROPOSAL FOR SINGLE PAYER NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

- **Expands financial coverage to all Americans** and removes all financial barriers to medical care.
- **Restores autonomy** to physicians and free choice of doctors and hospitals to patients.
- **Covers all medically necessary services**, including doctor, hospital, long-term care, mental health, dental, prescription drugs and supplies.
- **Saves enough on paperwork to cover all of the uninsured**, thus requiring no increase in total health care spending.
- **Controls costs** through global budgets for hospitals, negotiated fees with physicians, and bulk purchasing of pharmaceuticals. Ends investor-ownership of health care delivery facilities.
- **Pays for itself** by combining current sources of government health spending into a single fund, with modest new taxes that would be fully offset by reductions in premiums and out-of-pocket spending.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: SPEAK UP FOR NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

The Physicians' Proposal for Single-Payer National Health Insurance was drafted by a distinguished group of physicians and published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* on August 13, 2003. It evoked a very positive physician response and received widespread media coverage.

To date, more than 18,000 physicians have endorsed the Physicians' Proposal, including two former U.S. Surgeons General, two former editors-in-chief of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, hundreds of medical school professors and deans, and thousands of private practitioners from every state and specialty.

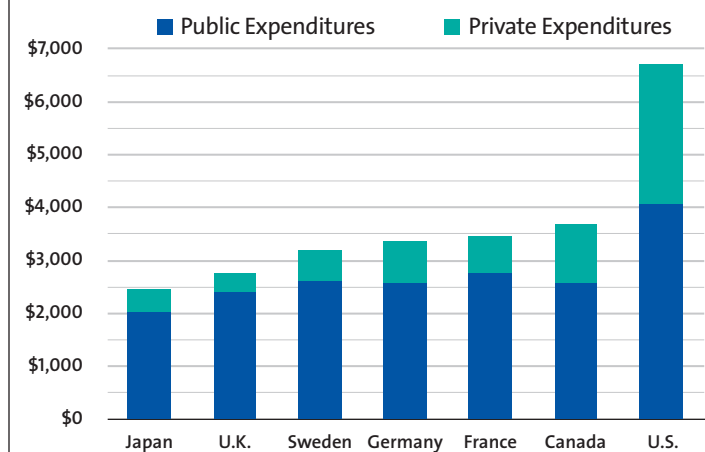
If you believe that medicine's first priority is patients, and that physicians should play a major role in reforming the health system, endorse the Physicians' Proposal, join PNHP and add your voice to the growing movement for real reform.

“Other wealthy countries manage to provide universal health care at half the cost we pay. National Health Insurance does not mean spending more. It means spending wisely.”

— Steffie Woolhandler, M.D., M.P.H.

Americans pay world's highest costs, and taxes for health care

Per capita health spending, 2006



Source: OECD



“Let’s fix our ailing health care system. Join PNHP and the movement for reform that can actually work.”
 —Marcia Angell, M.D., Former Editor-In-Chief, NEJM

What is PNHP?

In 1987, a small group of physicians, convinced that the nation’s health care system urgently needed reform, started Physicians for a National Health Program. Today, PNHP has over 18,000 members, representing every medical specialty and every state. As an organization and as individuals, we’ve played a key role in focusing the health policy debate on the need for nonprofit national health insurance.

We inform and mobilize the public.

By working with and educating community and religious organizations, business and consumer groups, labor unions, seniors, and health care workers at every level, we’ve helped build a grassroots movement for health care reform.

We educate physicians and other health professionals.

We’ve brought the reform debate to health professionals across the nation. At grand rounds and professional conferences, we’ve educated thousands of physicians about realistic alternatives for reform. We speak to the most powerful groups in organized medicine – as their colleagues and their conscience.

We conduct and publicize research.

PNHP members have contributed significant, peer-reviewed research on issues such as medical bills as a contributor to bankruptcy, administrative waste, and the impact of corporate control of health care. PNHP helps support and publicize this important scholarship.

We don’t just criticize the system – we show how it can be changed.

In 1989, PNHP published our first major proposal for a single-payer health care system in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (1/12/89). *The Journal of the American Medical Association* published our plans for financing single payer (5/15/91), long-term care reform (12/4/91), quality improvement (9/14/94) and most importantly our Physicians’ Proposal for Single-Payer National Health Insurance (8/13/03).

We advise the highest levels of government.

PNHP members serve as advisers and critics on state and national legislation. In the 2009 health care debate, PNHPers testified before every major congressional committee on health care. Our analyses support members’ lobbying efforts, and their roles in congressional and presidential campaigns.

We make your voice heard.

We’ve carried our message to every corner of America. PNHP members have been featured on Nightline and ABC World News, in major publications like the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, The New York Times, and the Washington Post, and broadcast on NPR and radio stations from coast to coast.

We are our members.

PNHP is an organization run by its members. Our small staff and all activities are supported by members’ dues, individual contributions, and above all, the hands-on activities of our members.

Membership Benefits

As a PNHP member, you’ll receive our periodic newsletters with over 40 pages of health care policy news, commentaries, features and research. You’ll also have access to educational materials, slide sets, speakers’ training workshops and other resources to help you become an effective advocate for reform.

You will also be able to participate in annual meetings where we discuss what’s really happening in health care in the U.S. and abroad, and plan our national strategy. You can become actively involved in one of over two dozen local chapters, or start a chapter in your area.

To become a PNHP member, just fill out the registration panel and send it to:

Physicians for a National Health Program

29 E. Madison St., Suite 602, Chicago, IL 60602

Phone: (312) 782-6006, Fax: (312) 782-6007

info@pnhp.org

Or Join Online at www.PNHP.org/join

I’d like to become a member of PNHP

New Member Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Specialty: _____

Membership Level

- Supporting \$250/YR
- Regular \$120/YR
- Low-income/Resident/Non-Phys. \$40/YR
- Student \$20/YR
- Contribution \$_____

Payment Information

Dues and contributions to PNHP are tax-deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code

- Check Enclosed (payable to PNHP)
- Credit Card: Visa MasterCard AmEx

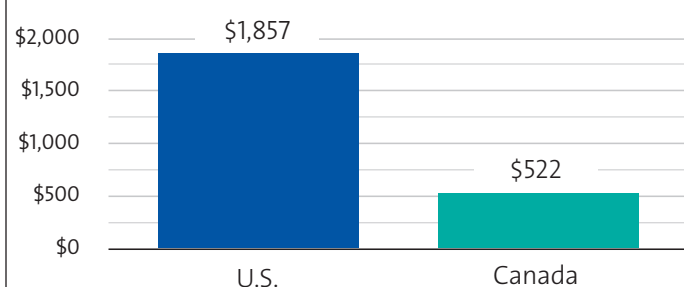
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“You can have universal coverage and good quality health care while still managing to control costs. But you have to have a single-payer system to do it.”
 —Harvard health economist William Hsiao, *New York Times Prescriptions Blog*, Nov. 3, 2009

Bureaucracy: U.S. vs. Canada, 2008

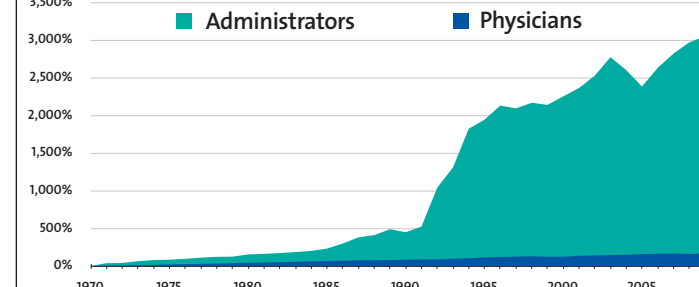
Money spent per capita on administrative costs



Source: “Administrative Waste in the U.S. Health Care System,” Woolhandler, Himmelstein & Wolfe *International Journal of Health Services*, Vol. 34, No. 1, 2004 (Update)

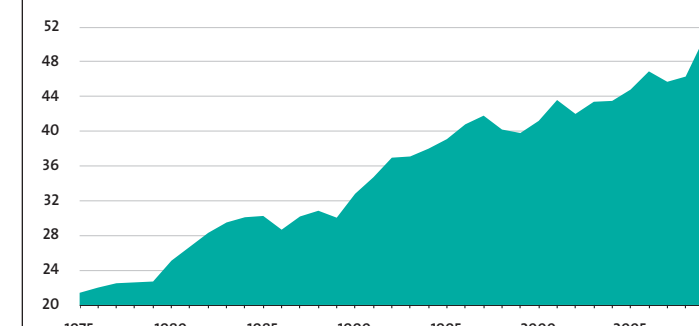
Who delivers health care?

Growth in physicians and administrators since 1970



Source: BLS & Himmelstein/Woolhandler/Lewontin Analysis of CPS Data

Number of uninsured Americans (in millions)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau