

# Q&A The National Medicare for All Debate

**Q I read Medicare for All (MFA) will cost \$18 trillion and is financially unsustainable.**

**A** Opponents say Medicare for All will cost \$18 trillion over 10 years. BUT we currently spend \$3.3 trillion per year. With projected inflation, total costs with no change in our system will be \$42 trillion over 10 years. So MFA would save \$24 trillion over the same 10 year span.

The US spends 2.5 times the average of other industrialized countries, or an average of \$8,745 per person annually, and we don't provide healthcare to everyone. Medical outcomes such as infant mortality and longevity, and equality of access, are much better in other countries.

**Q Isn't Medicare for All politically unrealistic?**

**A** Not true. 58% of all Americans support Medicare for All, with 81% of Democrats, 60% of Independents and 37% of Republicans in favor of the concept.

**Q I heard we would be starting from scratch and it will undo the Affordable Care Act and Medicare.**

**A** Medicare is a popular, comprehensive healthcare program with 50 years of experience. It needs improvements, such as adding dental and vision, and gaining the ability to negotiate fair prices for drugs. MFA would use this model to provide healthcare to everyone, from birth to death. The ACA allows states to implement programs better than ACA-mandated services starting in 2017.

**Q Won't it raise my taxes?**

**A** Yes, but even with the tax increase proposed by legislators, 95% of Americans will pay less than they do now. The taxes would replace premiums, co-pays, and deductibles. For example, it is estimated a family of four making \$50,000/year would save \$5,000 overall by paying the tax increase proposed under Senator Bernie Sanders' plan.

A recent Commonwealth Fund study revealed that, under our current system of private insurance, 44% of insured adults reported not getting care because of high co-pays and deductibles. 65% of personal bankruptcies are due to medical debt, and 75% of those were actually insured.



**The Campaign for a Healthy California (CHC)** is a community and labor coalition of organizations (representing over 4 million Californians) committed to building a grassroots movement to replace private health insurance with improved Medicare For All in California.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) made history by expanding health insurance to millions of Californians for the first time. However, it left insurance companies in charge of our healthcare system. Also, even with the ACA, 3,800,000 California residents were still uninsured in 2015.

In 2017, states will be eligible to improve upon the Affordable Care Act, and establish better and truly universal coverage that finally gets costs under control. Through our statewide campaign, the CHC is committed to building and broadening a grassroots movement to replace private health insurance with a single payer system that guarantees healthcare through improved Medicare for All in California. The Golden State can set the trend for the country by implementing a just and equitable healthcare system. **Join us!**