

Economists in Support of a Medicare for All Health Care System

An Open Letter to the Congress and People of the United States

November 19, 2019

As economists, we understand that a single-payer “Medicare for All” health insurance system for the U.S. can finance good-quality care for all U.S. residents as a basic right while still significantly reducing overall health care spending relative to the current exorbitant and wasteful system. Health care is not a service that follows standard market rules. It should therefore be provided as a public good.

Evidence from around the world demonstrates that publicly financed health care systems result in improved health outcomes, lower costs, and greater equity. As of 2017, the U.S. spent \$3.3 trillion annually on health care. This equaled 17 percent of U.S. GDP, with average spending at about \$10,000 per person. By contrast, Germany, France, Japan, Canada, the U.K., Australia, Spain and Italy spent between 9 – 11 percent of GDP on health care, averaging \$3,400 to \$5,700 per person. Yet average health outcomes in all of these countries are superior to those in the United States. In all of these countries, the public sector is predominant in financing health care.

For these reasons the time is now to create a universal, single-payer, Medicare for All health care system in the United States.

Public financing for health is not a matter of raising new money for healthcare, but of reducing total healthcare outlays and distributing payments more equitably and efficiently. Implementing a unified single-payer system would reduce administrative costs and eliminate individuals' and employers' insurance premiums and out-of-pocket costs. If combined with public control of drug prices and a dramatically simplified global budgeting system, a sensible Medicare financing system would reduce healthcare costs while guaranteeing access to comprehensive care and financial security to all.

As such, we support publicly and equitably financed health care through a Medicare for All system at the Federal level, as described in H.R. 1384 and S. 1129. We encourage Congress to move forward with implementing a public financed Medicare for All plan to achieve the equitable and affordable universal health care system that the American people need.

Signed,

- 1 Randy Albelda, Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Boston
- 2 Carolyn B. Aldana, Professor Emeritus, California State University, San Bernardino
- 3 Mona Ali, Associate Professor of Economics, SUNY New Paltz
- 4 Larry Allen, Professor of Economics, Lamar University
- 5 Jack Amariglio, Emeritus Professor of Economics, Merrimack College

- 6 Eileen Appelbaum, Co-Director and Senior Economist, Center for Economic and Policy Research
- 7 Peter Arno, Senior Fellow & Director Health Policy Research, Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- 8 Michael Ash, Professor of Economics & Public Policy, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 9 Glen Atkinson, Emeritus Professor of Economics, University of Nevada, Reno
- 10 M V Lee Badgett, Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 11 Ron Baiman, Assistant Professor of Economics, Benedictine University
- 12 Dean Baker, Senior Economist, Center for Economic and Policy Research
- 13 Erdogan Bakir, Associate Professor of Economics, Bucknell University
- 14 Radhika Balakrishnan, Professor, Rutgers University
- 15 Fabian Balardini, Associate Professor of Economics, Borough of Manhattan Community College
- 16 Nina Banks, Associate Professor of Economics, Bucknell University
- 17 David Barkin, Distinguished Professor, Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana
- 18 Charles Barone, Professor Emeritus, Dickinson College
- 19 Deepankar Basu, Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 20 Lourdes Beneria, Professor Emerita, Cornell University
- 21 Peter H. Bent, Assistant Professor, American University of Paris
- 22 Suzanne Bergeron, Professor, University of Michigan Dearborn
- 23 Cyrus Bina, Distinguished Research Professor of Economics, University of Minnesota (Morris Campus), and Fellow, Economists for Peace and Security
- 24 Josh Bivens, Research Director, Economic Policy Institute
- 25 Sandra E. Black, Professor, Columbia University
- 26 Robert A. Blecker, Professor of Economics, American University
- 27 Peter Bohmer, Faculty in Economics and Political Economy, The Evergreen State College
- 28 Howard Botwinick, Associate Professor of Economics, SUNY Cortland
- 29 Roger Even Bove, Ph.D. in Economics, West Chester University (retired)
- 30 James K. Boyce, Professor Emeritus, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 31 Elissa Braunstein, Professor of Economics, Colorado State University
- 32 Robert Brenner, Director, Center for Social Theory and Comparative History, UCLA
- 33 Michael Brün, Instructor, Heartland Community College
- 34 Antonio Callari, Professor, Franklin and Marshall College
- 35 Al Campbell, Emeritus Professor of Economics, University of Utah
- 36 Martha Campbell, Associate Professor of Economics, Emeritus, SUNY Potsdam

- 37 Jim Campen, Professor of Economics, Emeritus, University of Massachusetts Boston
- 38 José Caraballo, Professor, University of Puerto Rico
- 39 Scott Carter, Professor of Economics, The University of Tulsa
- 40 James F Casey, Associate Professor of Economics, Washington and Lee University
- 41 John Dennis Chasse, Professor Emeritus, SUNY College at Brockport
- 42 Claudia Chaufan, Associate Professor, York University and University of California San Francisco
- 43 Ying Chen, Assistant Professor of Economics, The New School
- 44 Robert Chernomas, Professor of Economics, University of Manitoba
- 45 Kimberly Christensen, Economics Professor, Sarah Lawrence College
- 46 Michale Cichon, Fellow, International Council of Social Welfare (ICSW)
- 47 Douglas Cliggott, Lecturer, Economics, University of Massachusetts
- 48 Nathaniel Cline, Associate Professor, University of Redlands
- 49 Tara Cookson, Director, Ladysmith
- 50 Richard Cornwall, Professor Emeritus, Middlebury College
- 51 James Crotty, Emeritus Professor, University of Massachusetts
- 52 Dr. James Cypher, Professor of Economics, Universidad Autonoma de Zacatecas, Mexico, and Emeritus Professor, California State University
- 53 Omar Dahi, , Hampshire College
- 54 Anita Dancs, Associate Professor of Economics, Western New England University
- 55 Flavia Dantas, Associate Professor of Economics, SUNY Cortland
- 56 Paul Davidson, Emeritus Professor Chair of Honor, University of Tennessee
- 57 Charles Davis, Professor of Labor Studies, Indiana University
- 58 Leila Davis, Assistant Professor , University of Massachusetts Boston
- 59 Maarten de Kaddt, PhD in economics, retired
- 60 Carmen Diana Deere, Distinguished Professor Emerita, University of Florida
- 61 George DeMartino, Professor, JKSSIS, University of Denver
- 62 Firat Demir, Professor, University of Oklahoma
- 63 James G. Devine, Professor of Economics, Loyola Marymount University
- 64 Geert Dhondt, Associate Professor, John Jay College, CUNY
- 65 Yasemin Dildar, Assistant Professor, California State University San Bernardino
- 66 Peter Dorman, Professor of Political Economy, Evergreen State College
- 67 Richard Du Boff, Professor Emeritus, Bryn Mawr College
- 68 Marie C. Duggan, Professor of Economics, Keene State College
- 69 Amitava Krishna Dutt, Professor of Economics and Political Science, University of Notre Dame

- 70 Carol E Heim, Professor Emerita of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 71 Nina Eichacker, Assistant Professor, University of Rhode Island
- 72 David P Ellerman, Visiting Scholar, University of California at Riverside
- 73 Gerald Epstein, Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 74 Thomas Ferguson, Professor Emeritus, University of Massachusetts Boston
- 75 David Fields, Economist, State of Utah
- 76 Ellen Fitzpatrick, Professor, Merrimack College
- 77 Sean Flaherty, Professor of Economics, Franklin and Marshall College
- 78 Maria Floro, Professor, American University
- 79 Nancy Folbre, Professor Emerita of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 80 John Bellamy Foster, Professor, University of Oregon
- 81 Mariko Frame, Assistant Professor of Economics, Merrimack College
- 82 Dania V. Francis, Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 83 Anders Fremstad, Assistant Professor, Colorado State University
- 84 Gerald Friedman, Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 85 Anthony Gabb, Associate Professor, St. John's University, NY
- 86 Barbara Garson, Author, *Money Makes the World Go Round*
- 87 Alison Garnham, Chief Executive, Child Poverty Action Group
- 88 Barbara Garson, Author, *Money Makes the World Go Round*,
- 89 Armagan Gezici, Associate Professor of Economics, Keene State College
- 90 Helen Lachs Ginsburg, Professor Emerita of Economics, Brooklyn College/CUNY
- 91 Mwangi Wa Githinji, Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
- 92 Art Goldsmith, Professor of Economics, Washington and Lee University
- 93 Jonathan Goldstein, Professor of Economics, Bowdoin College
- 94 Don Goldstein, Emeritus Professor of Economics, Allegheny College
- 95 Neva Goodwin, Co-director, GDAE, Tufts University
- 96 Ulla Grapard, Professor of Economics and Women's Studies, Emerita, Colgate University
- 97 Joshua Greenstein, Assistant Professor of Economics, Hobart and William Smith Colleges
- 98 Robert Guttman, Augustus B Weller Professor of Economics, Hofstra University
- 99 Robin E Hahnel, Professor Emeritus, American University
- 100 John Battaile Hall, Professor of Economics, Portland State University
- 101 Jay Hamilton, Assistant Professor, John Jay College
- 102 Greg P. Hannsgen, Founder and Blogger, Greg Hannsgen's Economics Blog, and Research Associate, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College
- 103 John T. Harvey, Professor of Economics, Texas Christian University

- 104 Baban Hasnat, Professor of International Business, SUNY Brockport
- 105 Erin Hayde, Consultant, World Bank
- 106 F. Gregory Hayden, Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 107 Carol E. Heim, Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 108 John Forrest Henry, Senior Scholar, Levy Economics Institute, and Adjunct Professor, University of Missouri-Kansas City
- 109 Barry Herman, Visiting Scholar, The New School
- 110 Conrad M. Herold, Associate Professor of Economics, Hofstra University
- 111 P. Sai-wing Ho, Professor, University of Denver
- 112 Joan Hoffman, Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice CUNY
- 113 Barbara Hopkins, Professor, Wright State University
- 114 Candace Howes, Professor of Economics, Connecticut College
- 115 Eric Hoyt, Ph.D. in Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Research Director, Center for Employment Equity
- 116 Julio Huato, Associate Professor of Economics, St. Francis College
- 117 Joseph Michael Hunt, Instructor, Environmental and Health Policy, Harvard University
- 118 Dorene Isenberg, Professor of Economics, University of Redlands
- 119 Tae-Hee Jo, Associate Professor, SUNY Buffalo State
- 120 Fadhel Kaboub, Associate Professor of Economics, Denison University, and President, Global Institute for Sustainable Prosperity
- 121 Ethan Kaplan, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Maryland at College Park
- 122 Stephanie A Kelton, Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Stony Brook University, and Senior Economic Advisor, Bernie2020 Presidential Campaign
- 123 Robert J Kemp, PhD, economics, and Principal, KempHE
- 124 Haider A Khan, John Evans Distinguished University Professor, University of Denver
- 125 Mu-Jeong Kho, , University College London, the University of London
- 126 Marlene Kim, Professor, University of Massachusetts Boston
- 127 Mary C. King, Professor of Economics Emerita, Portland State University
- 128 Charalampos Konstantinidis, Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts Boston
- 129 Kazim Konyar, Professor of Economics, California State University, San Bernardino
- 130 David Laibman, Professor Emeritus, Economics, City University of New York, and Editor, *Science & Society*
- 131 Brent Kramer, Adjunct Assistant Professor, City University of New York
- 132 David Laibman, Professor Emeritus, Economics, City University of New York, and Editor, *Science & Society*
- 133 Thomas Lambert, Lecturer, University of Louisville
- 134 Anthony Laramie, Professor of Economics, Merrimack College

- 135 Margaret Levenstein, Research Professor, Institute for Social Research and School of Information, University of Michigan
- 136 An Li, Assistant Professor, Sarah Lawrence College
- 137 Victor D. Lippit, Professor Emeritus of Economics, University of California, Riverside
- 138 James Luke, Professor of Economics, Lansing Community College
- 139 Daniel MacDonald, Assistant Professor, California State University San Bernardino
- 140 Arthur MacEwan, Professor Emeritus of Economics, University of Massachusetts Boston
- 141 Allan MacNeill, Professor, Webster University
- 142 Zagros Madjd-Sadjadi, Full Professor of Economics, Winston-Salem State University, and Former Chief Economist, City and County of San Francisco
- 143 Yahya M. Madra, Associate Professor of Economics, Drew University
- 144 Theresa Mannah-Blankson, Assistant Professor of Economics, Messiah College
- 145 Ann Markusen, Professor Emerita, University of Minnesota, and Principal, Markusen Economic Research, Rutgers University
- 146 Patrick L Mason, Professor of Economics, Florida State University, and Director, African American Studies Program
- 147 Thomas Masterson, Director of Applied Micromodeling, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College
- 148 Gabriel Mathy, Assistant Professor, American University
- 149 Julie Matthaei, Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts Boston
- 150 Peter H Matthews, Dana Professor of Economics, Middlebury College
- 151 Scott McConnell, Associate Professor of Economics, Eastern Oregon University, and Owner/CEO, Side A Brewing
- 152 Elaine McCrate, Economics Professor Emerita, University of Vermont
- 153 Terrence McDonough, Professor Emeritus, National University Ireland Galway
- 154 Martin Melkonian, Adjunct Associate Professor, Economics, Hofstra University
- 155 Peter B. Meyer, Professor Emeritus of Urban Policy and Economics, University of Louisville
- 156 Thomas Michl, Professor of Economics, Colgate University
- 157 John Miller, Professor of Economics, Wheaton College
- 158 Katherine A. Moos, Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 159 Monique Morrissey, Economist, Economic Policy Institute
- 160 Tracy Mott, Professor, University of Denver
- 161 Catherine P. Mulder, Associate Professor, John Jay College - CUNY
- 162 Suresh Naidu, Professor of Economics and Public Affairs, Columbia University
- 163 Michele Naples, Professor of Economics, The College of New Jersey

- 164 Jawied M Nawabi, Assistant Professor of Economics and Sociology, City University of New York Bronx Community College
- 165 Daniel H. Neilson, Faculty in Economics, Bard College at Simon's Rock
- 166 Edward J. Nell, Emeritus Professor, New School for Social Research
- 167 Julie A. Nelson, Professor, University of Massachusetts Boston
- 168 Reynold F. Nesiba, Professor of Economics, Augustana University
- 169 John Casey Nicolarsen, Visiting Professor, Sarah Lawrence College
- 170 Eric Nilsson, Professor, California State University San Bernardino
- 171 Erik Olsen, Associate Professor, University of Missouri Kansas City
- 172 Paulette Olson, Professor Emerita, Wright State University
- 173 Lenore Palladino, Senior Economist, Roosevelt Institute
- 174 Christian Parenti, Associate Professor Department of Economics, John Jay College CUNY
- 175 Mark Paul, Assistant Professor of Economics, New College of Florida
- 176 Eva Paus, Professor of Economics, Mount Holyoke College
- 177 Karen A Pfeifer, Professor Emerita of Economics, Smith College
- 178 Lynda Pickbourn, Assistant Professor of Economics, Hampshire College
- 179 Bruce Pietrykowski, Professor of Economics, University of Michigan-Dearborn
- 180 Chiara Piovani, Associate Professor, University of Denver
- 181 Robert Pollin, Distinguished Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Co-Director, Political Economy Research Institute (PERI)
- 182 Paddy Quick, Professor Emerita of Economics, St Francis College, Brooklyn
- 183 Devin T. Rafferty, Assistant Professor, Saint Peter's University, and Founding Director, MS Finance Program
- 184 Pratistha Joshi Rajkarnikar, Postdoc Scholar, Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University
- 185 Michael Robinson, Professor of Economics, Mount Holyoke College
- 186 John Roche, Associate Proferssor Emeritus, St John Fisher College
- 187 Leonard Rodberg, Emeritus Professor of Urban Studies, Queens College/CUNY
- 188 Leanne Roncolato, Assistant Professor of Economics, Franklin and Marshall College
- 189 Frank Roosevelt, Emeritus Professor of Economics, Sarah Lawrence College
- 190 Jaime Ros, Emeritus Professor, University of Notre Dame, and Professor of Economics, National Autonomous University of Mexico
- 191 Nancy E Rose, California State University San Bernardino
- 192 Trevor R. Roycroft, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Ohio University
- 193 David F. Ruccio, Professor of Economics, University of Notre Dame
- 194 Jeffrey D. Sachs, Professor, Columbia University

- 195 Gregory M Saltzman, Professor of Economics and Management, Albion College
- 196 John Sarich, , The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art
- 197 John Schmitt, Vice President, Economic Policy Institute
- 198 Jeremy Schwartz, Associate Professor, Loyola University Maryland
- 199 Elliott Sclar, Emeritus Professor, Columbia University
- 200 Stephanie Seguino, Professor of Economics, University of Vermont
- 201 Laurence Seidman, Professor of Economics, University of Delaware
- 202 Mark Setterfield, Professor of Economics, New School for Social Research
- 203 Anwar Shaikh, Professor, New School for Social Research
- 204 Barry G. Shelley, Senior Lecturer, Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University
- 205 Zoe Sherman, Assistant Professor of Economics, Merrimack College
- 206 Howard Sherman, Professor Emeritus UC Riverside, UC Riverside
- 207 Heidi Shierholz, Senior Economist and Director of Policy, Economic Policy Institute
- 208 Hee-Young Shin, Assistant Professor, Wright State University
- 209 Nicholas Shunda, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Redlands
- 210 Laurence Shute, Emeritus Professor of Economics, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
- 211 Curtis Skinner, PhD in economics, consultant
- 212 Kellin Stanfield, Assistant Professor of Economics, Hobart and William Smith Colleges
- 213 Howard Stein, Professor, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- 214 Jose A. Tapia, Associate Professor, Drexel University
- 215 Linwood Tauheed, Associate Professor, University of Missouri Kansas City
- 216 Daniele Tavani, Associate Professor, Colorado State University
- 217 Pavlina R. Tcherneva, Program Director and Associate Professor of Economics, Bard College, and Research Associate, Levy Economics Institute
- 218 Chris Tilly, Professor of Urban Planning, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs
- 219 E. Ahmet Tonak, Visiting Professor, Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 220 Mariano Torras, Professor, Adelphi University
- 221 Andres Torres, Distinguished Lecturer, Lehman College (retired)
- 222 Mayo Toruno, Professor Emeritus, California State University San Bernardino
- 223 Eric Tymoigne, Associate Professor of Economics, Lewis & Clark College
- 224 Vamsi Vakulabharanam, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 225 Hendrik Van den Berg, Professor Emeritus, University of Nebraska, and Lecturer, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 226 Wouter van Ginneken, International Delegate, ATD Fourth World, and Ex-official, ILO

- 227 William Van Lear, Economics Professor, Belmont Abbey College
- 228 Ramaa Vasudevan, Associate Professor, Colorado State University
- 229 Tanadej Vechsuruck, Assistant Professor, University of Rhode Island
- 230 William Waller, Professor of Economics, Hobart and William Smith Colleges
- 231 John P. Watkins, Professor of Economics, Westminster College, and Adjunct Professor of Economics, University of Utah
- 232 John Weeks, Professor Emeritus, SOAS, University of London
- 233 David F. Weiman, Professor of Economics, Barnard College, Columbia University
- 234 Scott A. Weir, Ph.D. in Economics, Retired
- 235 Jeannette Wicks-Lim, Associate Research Professor, Political Economy Research Institute
- 236 Noé Wiener, Lecturer, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 237 Robert B. Williams, Professor of Economics, Guilford College
- 238 John Willoughby, Professor, Department of Economics, American University
- 239 Benjamin Wilson, Assistant Professor, SUNY Cortland
- 240 Lucas Wilson, Professor, Mount Holyoke College
- 241 Valerie Wilson, Director, Program on Race, Ethnicity & the Economy, Economic Policy Institute
- 242 Andrew J. Winnick, Professor of Economics Emeritus, California State University, Los Angeles
- 243 Jon D. Wisman, Professor of Economics, American University
- 244 Richard D. Wolff, Professor of Economics Emeritus, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 245 Hyun Woong Park, Assistant Professor, Denison University
- 246 L. Randall Wray, Professor of Economics and Senior Scholar, Bard College and Levy Economics Institute
- 247 Brenda Wyss, Associate Professor, Wheaton College Massachusetts
- 248 Yavuz Yasar, Associate Professor, University of Denver
- 249 Tai Young-Taft, Assistant Professor of Economics, Bard College at Simon's Rock, and Research Scholar, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College
- 250 June Zaccone, Associate Professor of Economics, Emerita, Hofstra University
- 251 Ajit Zacharias, Senior Scholar, Levy Economics Institute
- 252 German A. Zarate-Hoyos, Associate Professor, SUNY Cortland
- 253 Gabriel Zucman, Assistant Professor of Economics, University of California, Berkeley