

Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal  
319 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

December 17, 2018

1904 3rd Ave., Suite 510  
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Congresswoman Jayapal,

We are writing to express our support for **HR 676, Expanded and Improved Medicare for All** as the solution to the ongoing health care crisis in our nation.

In western Pennsylvania and throughout the country, grassroots activists have been at the forefront of building public support for a not for profit health care delivery system embodied in Medicare for All. This has occurred in spite of tremendous opposition from the insurance industry, PHARMA, and conservative politicians in both major parties.

As the principal sponsor of HR 676, we understand that you and others are in the process of rewriting substantive sections of the bill. Our concerns about this endeavor are genuine and serious.

The essential components of this bill must be maintained. For more than a decade of struggle the principled tenets of HR 676 have proven to be a popular organizing tool that has permitted this real alternative to gain tremendous momentum and increased public support. Going forward, now is the time for a bold mass strategy that builds on this growing support for single payer and HR 676. Indeed, a single payer, not for profit healthcare system as outlined in HR 676 is the *only* solution to fixing the problems with the US healthcare system.

CHAIR  
Ed Grystar

STEERING COMMITTEE  
Hon. Sen Jim Ferlo  
Ana Malinow, MD, former national president of Physicians for a National Health Program  
Sandra Fox, LCSW  
Dave Hughes, Citizens Power  
John Thompson, United Electrical Workers  
Steven Kocherzat, Esq.  
Lou Hancherick, Butler County Democratic Committee

(organizations listed for identification only)

Weakening the legislation by allowing profit making providers and insurance sponsored plans will not help us achieve our goal. At a time when the idea of a genuine single payer not for profit healthcare delivery system is now looked at as a real and practical alternative in the public debate, it makes no sense to carve out exceptions to the insurance industry, for profit providers or others who profit from the current healthcare system. It will not achieve the savings and will confuse, demoralize and weaken the support of many who are the backbone and public face of this struggle.

One can see the smiles of the insurance industry, PHARMA, big money and compromised politicians who welcome these changes before the real political battle even begins. We must also recognize that the growing public support for Medicare for All has brought more Congressional cosponsors to HR 676. This has occurred not from weakening the legislative content, but from growing a movement that has already gone much further than imagined even a few years ago.

Let us move forward with confidence that we are gaining public support and all the solutions of the for profit industry have failed. We are on the winning side and can prevail in this historic struggle if we take our principled proposal to the public to deepen its support and build the citizens movement that is necessary for victory.

HR 676 guarantees everyone good health care, elimination of the constant fear of financial damage for patients and their families, and doesn't burden the public with the costs of funding the wholly unnecessary private insurance industry. Revisions that move us farther from that outcome will lose public support and our support as well. If you are unable to make HR 676 better, please do not change it.

Sincerely,

Ed Grystar, Chair, Western Pa Coalition for Single Payer Healthcare  
Judy L. Albert, MD

CHAIR  
Ed Grystar

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Tony Buba, Filmmaker

Frank Kirkwood

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Cc. PA. Democratic Congressional Delegation

Healthcare Now

Health Over Profit Everyone

Labor Campaign for Single Payer

Unions for Single Payer Healthcare

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