

## **OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN CRISIS**

Our current healthcare system is driven by profit and governed by insurance and pharmaceutical companies, rather than by the people. In calling for **Improved Medicare for All** we are fighting to shift power from corporations and the 1 percent (insurance & drug corporations), move health care resources into the public sphere (and people into public coverage), increase community control, and combat exclusion on the basis of race, gender, citizenship status, age, and ability. We must directly counter the racialized vilification of public programs and challenge narrative frameworks that view anyone as undeserving of care. And we must move towards the realization of the sovereign treaty right to health care for American Indians. Fighting for universal health care allows us to put corporate power, immigrant exclusion, and racial and gender inequity at the center of the debate.

### **HEALTHCARE IS A HUMAN RIGHT & A PUBLIC GOOD**

We will know we have won when health care is:

- ✓ For health, not profit
- ✓ Simple, universal, and available
- ✓ Fully resourced
- ✓ Equitable across race, gender, ability, and region
- ✓ Delivered by health care workers who are fairly and fully compensated for their labor
- ✓ Inclusive and comprehensive (including medicines, medical equipment, vision/dental/hearing care, reproductive care, mental health care, harm reduction and treatment for substance misuse, preventive care, and long-term care and home care)

## **PROTECTING EXISTING FEDERAL HEALTH PROGRAMS AND FUNDING**

- We must prevent the repeal or replacement of the Affordable Care Act, in part or in full, both in Congress and the court system.
- We must prevent budget cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, the Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Social Security, and fight for full funding of these vital programs as core components of our established health care infrastructure.
- We must stop all attempts to prevent vulnerable communities and populations from accessing federally funded health care through changes to eligibility requirements, such as citizenship status, or covered services, particularly reproductive health care and access to abortion.

## **BUILDING A MANDATE FOR UNIVERSAL CARE**

- We must pass legislation that remedies the way in which health care is paid for in this country. We must replace the broken patchwork of private, for-profit insurance and supplemental public programs with a universal, single-payer system: Improved Medicare for All.
- We must ensure Improved Medicare for All includes all people in this country, from birth to end of life, in all geographies, regardless of race, gender, citizenship status, sexual orientation, and ability.

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- We must ensure Improved Medicare for All provides high quality, culturally competent, comprehensive services, including medical, dental, hearing, vision, prescription drugs, medical devices, mental health, addiction recovery, primary care, preventative care, harm reduction, reproductive care, maternal and infant care, long-term care in facilities and at home – at no cost to patients.
  - We must address and eliminate the insidious racial and gender disparities in healthcare, including ending the high rates of maternal mortality for Black and Native women.
  - We must ensure patients can make fully informed decisions about their care according to what is best for them and their family.
  - We must include and respect alternative and indigenous medical practices in an Improved Medicare for All system.
  - We must invest in reviving health care infrastructure in rural areas, areas impacted by climate catastrophes, and other under-resourced geographies
  - We must ensure Improved Medicare for All fairly compensates health care providers for their services, including not-for profit hospitals, inpatient facilities, outpatient facilities, and homecare services, and their medical and non-medical staff. Under this system, providers must be prohibited from using government funds for private profiteering, and held accountable to non-discrimination and cultural competency standards to maintain eligibility for public funding.
  - We must ensure Improved Medicare for All includes a fully-funded, just transition for impacted workers in the health insurance and pharmaceutical industries.

## **ADVANCING RX DRUG REFORM**

- We must expose and end the monopolization of pharmaceutical development, manufacturing, and distribution by private industry. Many essential medicines were created with public funding and support. We will no longer allow big pharma to unfairly profit off patents while patients die.
- We must make the pharmaceutical industry's abusive price-gouging practices illegal.
- We must pass legislation that allows the federal government to negotiate lower prescription drug costs with manufacturers.
- We must pass legislation that allows the federal government to manufacture generic prescription drugs or import them from other countries when domestic pharmaceutical corporations fail to set fair prices.

## **ENDING THE OVERDOSE CRISIS & THE FAILED WAR ON DRUGS**

- We must create drug treatment and mental health systems that meet the need and scale of the overdose crisis.
- We must legalize evidence-based harm reduction policies, like sanctioned safe injection sites and overdose prevention techniques.
- We must hold perpetrators of this manufactured crisis and the failed “war on drugs” accountable for their actions in ways that adequately reflect the scale and scope of the overdose and opioid crisis on individuals and communities.