Top Six Reasons We Need Medicare-for-All Now

Our health care system fails far too many

1. **Americans, particularly those that are uninsured, are at risk of premature death.**
   - Tens of thousands of Americans will die this year for lack of health coverage and the U.S. ranks last out of 16 industrialized countries for deaths that could be prevented with proper medical care.

2. **Patients face financial barriers to care – even with insurance.**
   - Americans struggle to access care (doctor, hospital, surgery, etc.) at much higher rates than citizens of other comparable nations.
   - Over half of uninsured Americans reported difficulty paying medical bills, while one out of five Americans with insurance also reported difficulties paying their bills. Those with difficulty paying medical bills cited facing hard choices, including cutting back on food and other basic items or using up most or all of their savings.
   - Medical bills contribute to more than 60 percent of all bankruptcies. Three-fourths of those bankrupted had health insurance at the time they got sick. While the Affordable Care Act reduced the accumulation of medical debt, it has not ended medical bankruptcy.

3. **Money and resources are wasted in our current system.**
   - Streamlining the payment system would free up substantial physician and nurse time for patient care.
   - Administrative costs consume 25 percent of hospital spending. If we could reduce administrative waste as other countries have, including Scotland and Canada, we could save more than $150 billion a year.
   - Other countries spend far less, while achieving better health outcomes, through more efficient single-payer systems.

Our health care system remains deeply fragmented

4. **The private insurance companies remain the root of the problem.**
   - Our fragmented multi-payer health care system makes it impossible to control costs as efficiently as a Medicare-for-All system.
   - Insurers will continue to reap profits by stripping down policies; restricting provider networks; limiting and denying care; and increasing patients' co-pays, deductibles, and other out-of-pocket costs.

Improved Medicare-for-All is the solution

5. **Single-payer Medicare-for-All covers everyone and saves money.**
   - Switching to a single-payer system could save nearly $600 billion per year by slashing overhead and negotiating lower drug costs. Savings are enough to cover everyone and eliminate cost-sharing in health care.

- Patients can choose their doctors and hospitals. Physicians can choose their practice settings. Benefits would be comprehensive, including long-term care and substance abuse treatment.

6. **Americans support Medicare-for-All.**
   - Recent polls indicate that a [majority of Americans](), 60 percent, support Medicare-for-All.
   - A majority of Americans, 62 percent, believe that [government is responsible]() for ensuring health coverage for all Americans.