



The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
1100 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
House Ways and Means Committee
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Hearing on "Pathways to Universal Health Coverage"

Dear Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady,

On behalf of the 1.9 million seniors and members of the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC), I am writing in opposition to a complete government takeover of healthcare, often referred to as Medicare for All.

The promise of Medicare for All really means quality healthcare for none. Under Medicare for All, seniors would lose their current healthcare and doctors. Medicare for All would abolish private insurance including employer provided plans, union plans, Medicare and Medicare Advantage. In the month's leading up to the passage of the Affordable Care Act, President Obama frequently told the American people "If you like your health care plan, you can keep it" which turned out not to be true for millions of Americans. Government takeover of healthcare would mean that no American could keep their plan. Indeed, over 187 million Americans stand to lose their current healthcare under a completely socialized system.

Fewer doctors will be available for seniors under Medicare for All. Proponents of socialized medicine often cite lower Medicare doctor reimbursement rates as a major source of savings, but this will come at the cost of quality healthcare. Charles Blahous, former Medicare Trustee, found that Medicare for All would lead to a 40 percent decline in medical reimbursement according to his report for the Mercatus Center. Forcing millions more into a system that is already overburdened while discouraging Americans from entering the medical field is a recipe for disaster. With fewer doctors and 327 million Americans now required to seek care through a taxpayer-funded program, waiting lists, rationing and denial of care will be the inevitable result.

Massive tax increases will be required to fund Medicare for All, including taxes on middle-class seniors. Both the conservative Mercatus Center and liberal Urban Institute have found that Medicare for all would cost nearly \$40 trillion on top of current spending, an amount more than 10 times the annual tax revenue the US government collects. That increased tax burden will fall largely on the middle class, with some economists estimating that the middle-class tax burden would need to double to finance socialized medicine. Mercatus economist Blahous wrote in a Wall Street Journal commentary that "doubling all currently projected federal individual and

corporate income tax collections would be insufficient to finance the added federal costs of the plan." Americans hoping that tax increases on the rich will pay for socialized medicine will be disappointed to find their own tax burdens increasing tremendously.

As an organization committed to representing seniors, AMAC remains dedicated to ensuring senior citizens' interests are protected. We strongly oppose any government takeover of healthcare and urge you to consider both the political and economic implications of socialized medicine. Please find attached more information about the organization and a list of proposed policy changes that would help seniors. 1) the Physicians Pro Bono Care Act 2) the Social Security Guarantee 3) the Social Security Plus retirement savings plan.

Thank you for holding this important hearing. Our members and staff stand against socialized medicine and are ready to work with you on AMAC's positive solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Weber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dan Weber
President,
Association of Mature American Citizens