

WESTERN PA COALITION *for*
Single Payer Healthcare

Growing the National Movement for Improved Medicare for All

P.O. Box 82528
Pittsburgh, PA 15218
412-215-4141
www.wpasinglepayer.org

January 11, 2018

Dear <Candidate>,

The **Western Pa Coalition for Single Payer Healthcare** and the Pittsburgh Chapter of the **Physicians for a National Health Program** are local grassroots organizations that educate and advocate for a national Medicare for All system as embodied in **HR 676, Expanded and Improved Medicare for All**, and Bernie Sanders' **Senate Bill, S 1804, Medicare for All Act of 2017** with improvements.

For over twelve years, we have been active in establishing a growing network of supporters in the region demanding fundamental change to the way healthcare is provided in our country. Over the past few months, we have addressed over 700 people in various forums, rallies, and public events on Medicare for All and plan to continue this advocacy into 2018 and the Congressional elections.

As you know, in spite of the passage of Obamacare and all the Republican attempts to repeal and replace it, the concerns of healthcare access and rising costs continue as one of the top issues among the American people in all public opinion polls.

And despite a virtual blackout by the media, the support for single payer is growing as documented by a June 2017 poll conducted by the *Pew Research Center*.

(<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/06/23/public-support-for-single-payer-health-coverage-grows-driven-by-democrats/>)

Our organizations plan to work together for the upcoming 2018 Congressional elections. We are interested in discussing how your upcoming campaign plans to address this issue.

We would appreciate meeting with you to discuss this matter at your earliest convenience. Please contact the representatives below either via email or phone to setup a meeting to discuss this issue.

Also, please take a few minutes to answer the healthcare questionnaire that we have enclosed and return to the address listed by January 30, 2018.

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)

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This questionnaire will also be sent to all 2018 congressional candidates in Western PA.

We plan to distribute the answers to this questionnaire via local newspapers, public events, and electronic and social media. Our area activist list also includes over 700 individuals.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and we look forward to discussing this most important issue with you.

For the **Western PA Coalition for Single Payer Healthcare** and the **Pittsburgh Chapter, Physicians for National Health Program**

Ed Grystar, Chair, Western PA Coalition for Single Payer Healthcare
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Ana Malinow, M.D. past national President Physicians for National Health Program
anamalinow@gmail.com

Hon Jim Ferlo
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412-952-3364

Scott Tyson, M.D. Pittsburgh Chapter, Physicians for National Health Program,
Board member, Health Care4All PA tysmar@aol.com

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Medicare for All Congressional Candidate Questionnaire

We, the **Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Single Payer Healthcare** and the **Pittsburgh Chapter of Physicians for National Health Program (PNHP)**, believe an expanded and improved "Medicare for All" plan is the best health care system to guarantee everyone the healthcare they need without damaging their family's financial well-being.

Unlike the Affordable Care Act and all repeal-and-replace Republican proposals, Medicare for All will improve and expand the currently popular Medicare program to all ages and cover all medically necessary care (including dental, vision, pharmaceuticals, mental health, and long term-care) while eliminating all out-of-pocket expenses and supplemental insurances. No matter how much tinkering we do, health plans built to guarantee the prosperity of the insurance and drug industries will never provide Americans with the healthcare they need and deserve.

Support for Medicare for All, a not for-profit, single-payer healthcare delivery system, requires Congressional leadership.

Please indicate your support with a check mark in the box for each statement.

- I will maintain a statement of support for Medicare for All on the "Issues" page of my campaign website (and if an incumbent, on my official website) and the reasons for my support.
- If my campaign committee donates to other candidates I will strive to give only to candidates who support Medicare for All and will work to NOT FUND organizations (including political parties) that finance the campaigns of candidates who are not supporters of Medicare for All.
- I will include my support for Medicare for All in all relevant speaking engagements, communications to voters, and advertisements about health care.
- Once elected, I will do everything in my power to advance all current and future Medicare for All legislation (specifically HR 676, "Expanded and Improved Medicare for All" and S1804, "Medicare for All") including co-sponsoring the legislation, voting for the legislation, and signing a discharge petition to force Congress to call a vote on the legislation.

I agree that I have completed the above questionnaire

_____ Date: _____

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