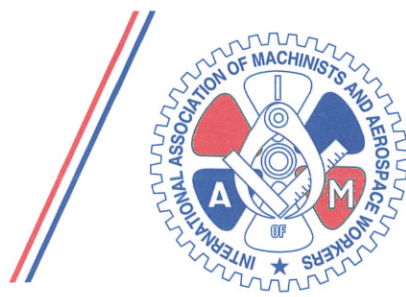


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
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OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

September 19, 2017

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), I strongly urge you to cosponsor Senator Bernie Sanders's recently introduced Medicare for All Act of 2017, S. 1804.

While the Affordable Care Act has been successful in providing access to millions of previously uninsured Americans, an estimated 27 million people in this country remain without health insurance. For decades the IAM has strongly supported a single-payer, universal healthcare system as the best, most efficient way to ensure access to healthcare for all Americans. It is our view that healthcare is a fundamental human right, and until we guarantee comprehensive healthcare to all, our work is not complete.

Leading healthcare analysts estimate that in 2016, the United States spent more than \$9,200 on healthcare per capita. This is more than twice the average per capita healthcare spending of other developed nations. Yet despite our high level of spending, the United States ranks near the bottom in terms of life expectancy and other healthcare outcomes when compared to comparable countries. Not only does our current system fail to deliver world-class healthcare to our citizens, but it places U.S. employers at a distinct competitive disadvantage in global markets when pitted against companies in countries with national health care systems that are not saddled with the burden of expensive employer sponsored healthcare plans.

Much of the inflated healthcare spending in the United States is due to the inefficiency and profit motivated incentives built into our fragmented healthcare system. The Medicare for All Act would create a single-payer healthcare system that improves and expands the already existing Medicare program to all U.S. residents. It would allow for real cost controls through negotiated fee schedules and bulk purchasing. It would eliminate much of the inefficiency and complication inherent to our current system, and it would replace the current profit-seeking incentives with the incentive to simply provide quality, efficient healthcare.

A single-payer system, as in enhanced and expanded Medicare for All Act, is the only affordable way to guarantee quality health care for all Americans. I urge you to support smart, comprehensive, and humane healthcare policy by signing on as a co-sponsor to S.1804.

Please contact Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at (202) 420-5902 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert Martinez, Jr.
International President