

# What Every American Should Know

... about Health Care,  
including The Mystery

After this information is shared with others, it is recommended that a copy of the following document be given to them:

“Benefits of Single-Payer”

... which is intended to be printed

as a double-sided document on one sheet of paper

[http://www.medicareforall.org/files/Benefits\\_of\\_Single-Payer.pdf](http://www.medicareforall.org/files/Benefits_of_Single-Payer.pdf)

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# Introduction

What follows explains the critical need for U.S. citizens to print and send letters\* monthly to U.S. Representatives to help get “single-payer” and help...

... the U.S. economy and its global competitiveness

... the physical and financial well-being of U.S. citizens.

We have denied ourselves the benefits of national health insurance for decades while residents of other free-market countries, including many Americans living abroad, enjoy its benefits.

\* and make calls ... or only make the short calls if one has no computer access and no e-mail.

“Single-payer” is where people in a country all pay into **one** insurance fund for health care.

- **Risk of physical and/or financial pain and suffering is minimized for everyone.**
- **Economic benefits result from the high efficiency and resulting low costs for businesses and governmental units.**

One public agency pays the bills.

What you may expect to be additional costs are either set to zero or are at an affordable amount, such as no deductibles, very low or no co-pays and very low prescription drug costs.

# More About “single-payer”

All other free-market high-income countries have implemented non-profit national health insurance to pay for health care.

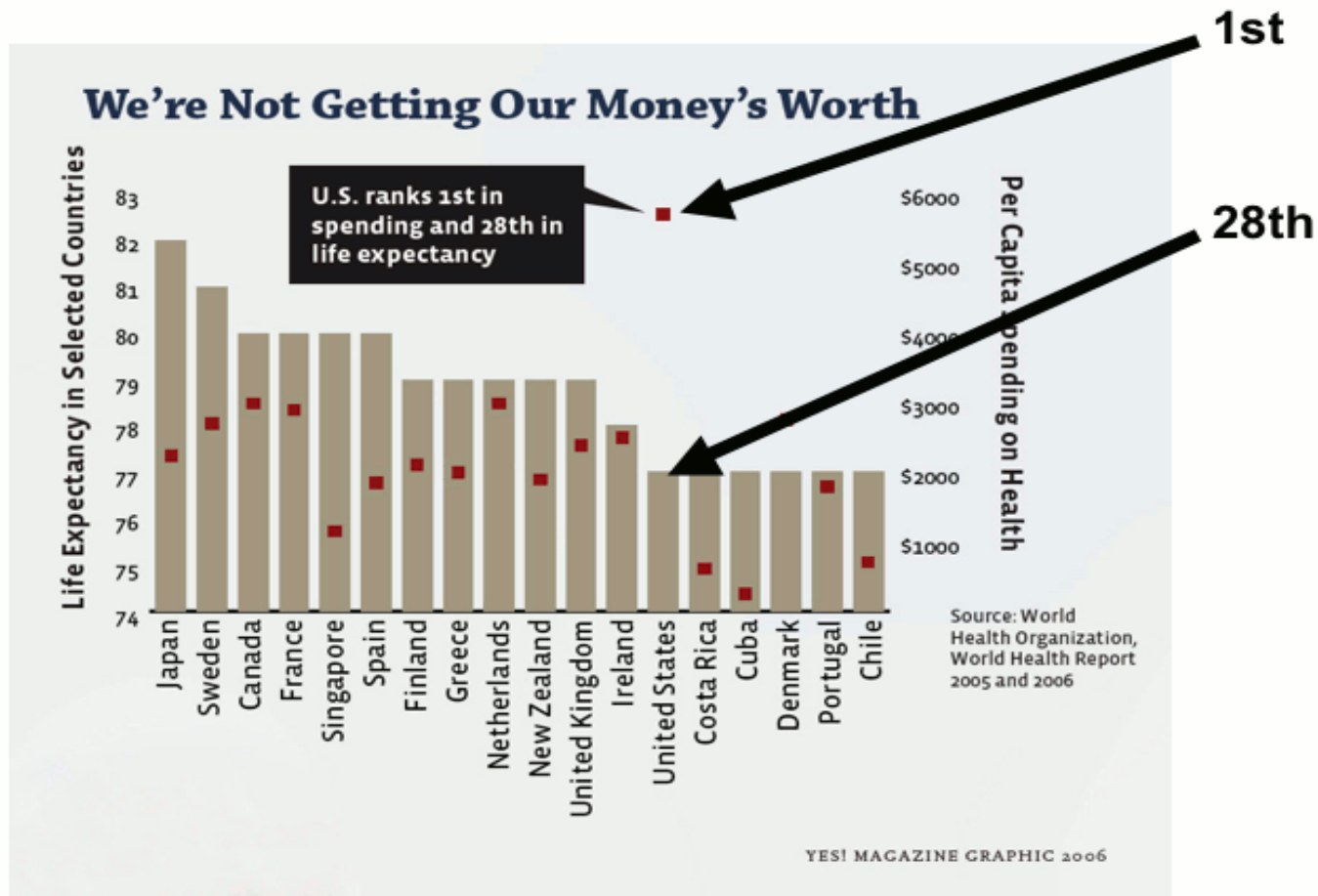
- The best version of national health insurance is “single-payer”. It is the simplest and most efficient, providing the greatest benefits at the lowest cost.
- Physicians keep their private practices, but their costs are significantly lower.
- Residents experience dramatic benefits. -->

# Summary of Benefits of National Health Insurance

Residents in other free-market countries:

- **pay less than half the cost** per person
- get **high quality health care**,  
pre-natal to the end-of-life:  
cradle to grave; womb to the tomb
- receive **no major medical bills**
- **live longer** than we do with  
better lives (less pain & suffering)

Their costs are much lower and life expectancy much better.



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They pay 40%-42% times the average cost that an average American pays.

The life expectancy in the other free market countries is improving at a faster rate than the U.S.

U.S. life expectancy **was 28<sup>th</sup>** in 2005-2006.

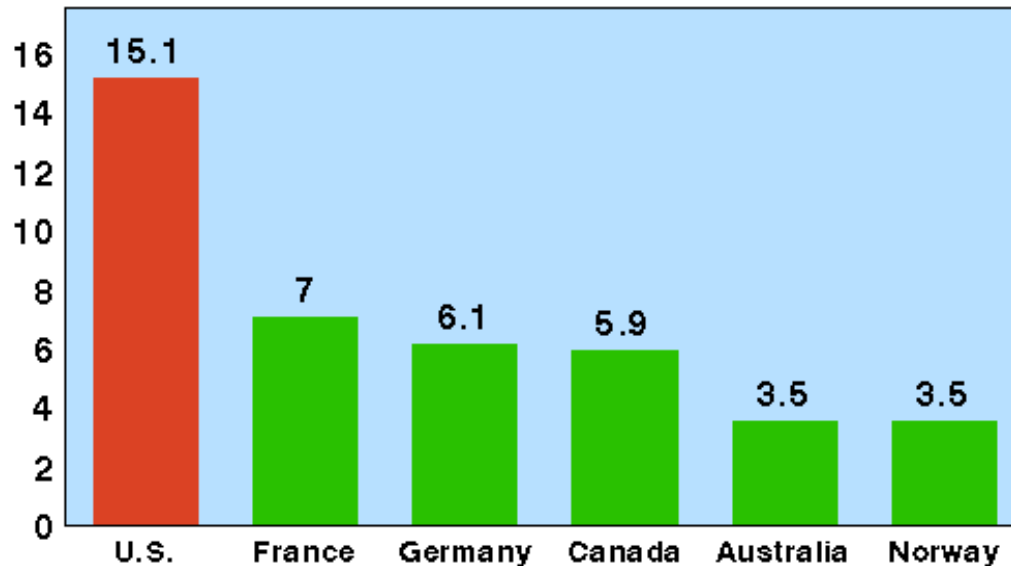
As of June 2008, the U.S. ranks **30<sup>th</sup> in the world** as per World Health Organization.

**Our health performance has gotten worse.**

According to our Central Intelligence Agency (the CIA) the United States life expectancy ranks **50<sup>th</sup> in the world (among more countries)**

Their maternal mortality is much better.

## Maternal Mortality Deaths/100,000 Births



Source: OECD, 2008

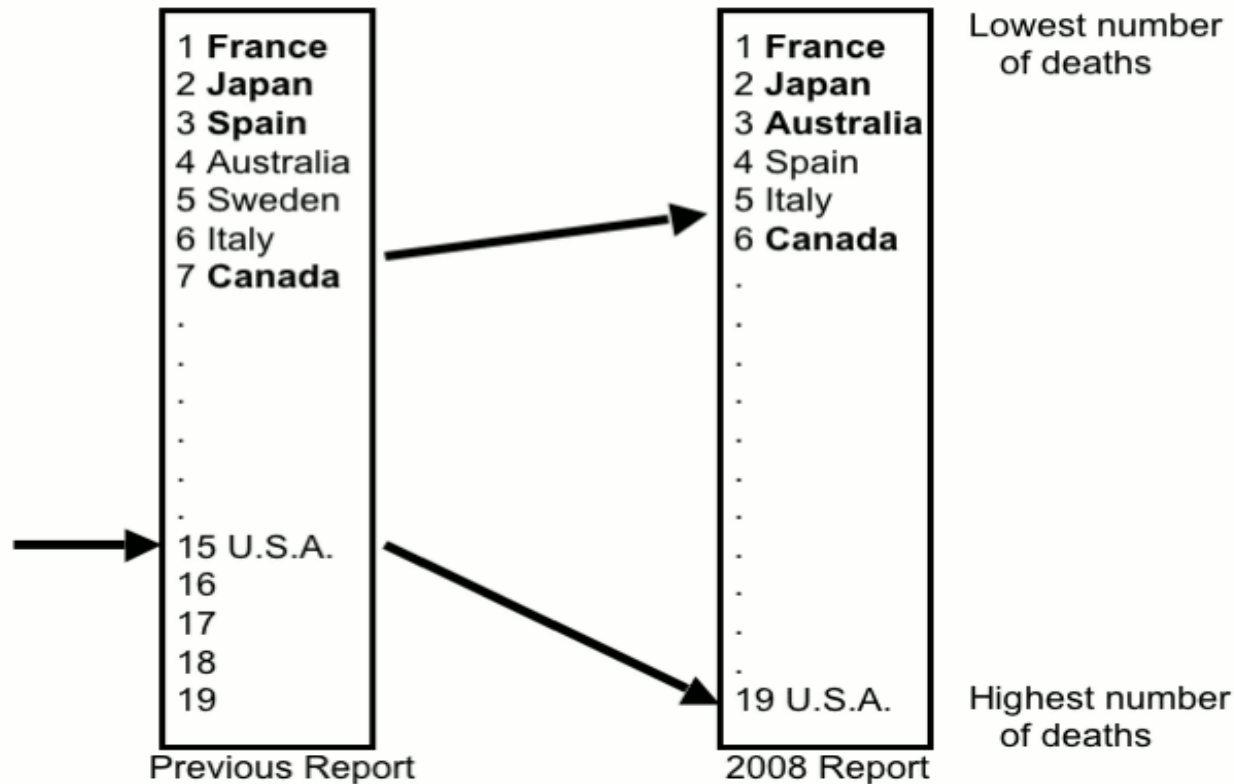
Note: Data are for 2006 or most recent year available

Women in other countries survive pregnancy and childbirth much more often.



# Canada improved prevention while the U.S. failed miserably: 19 countries between 2003 and 2008

## Deaths due to Preventable Diseases DROP IN PERFORMANCE

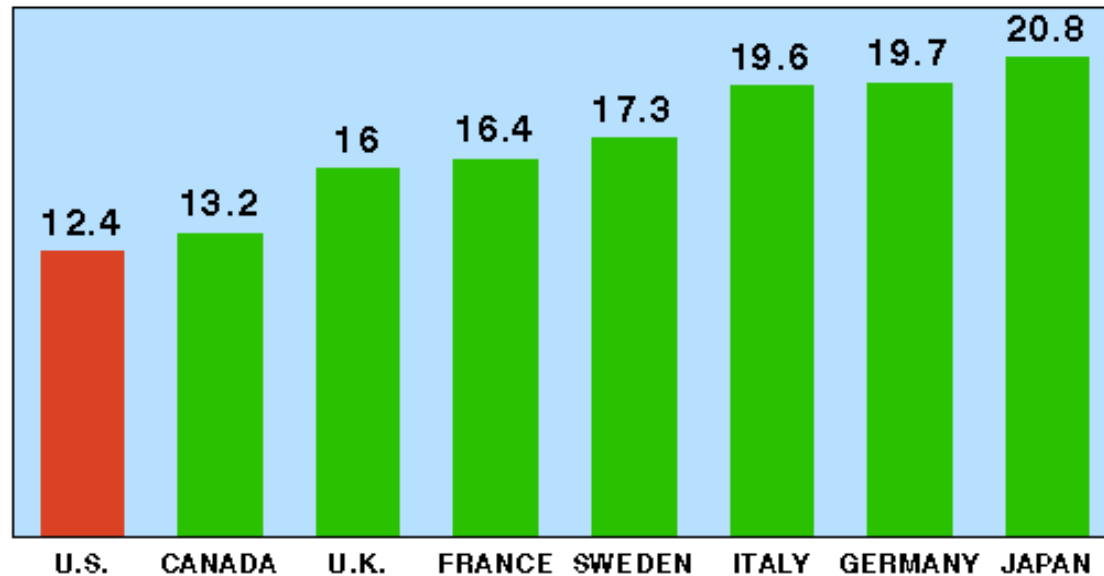


Why U.S. health performance  
is getting worse >>>

NOT because:  
we have too many old people

## Percent Elderly

% of Population >64

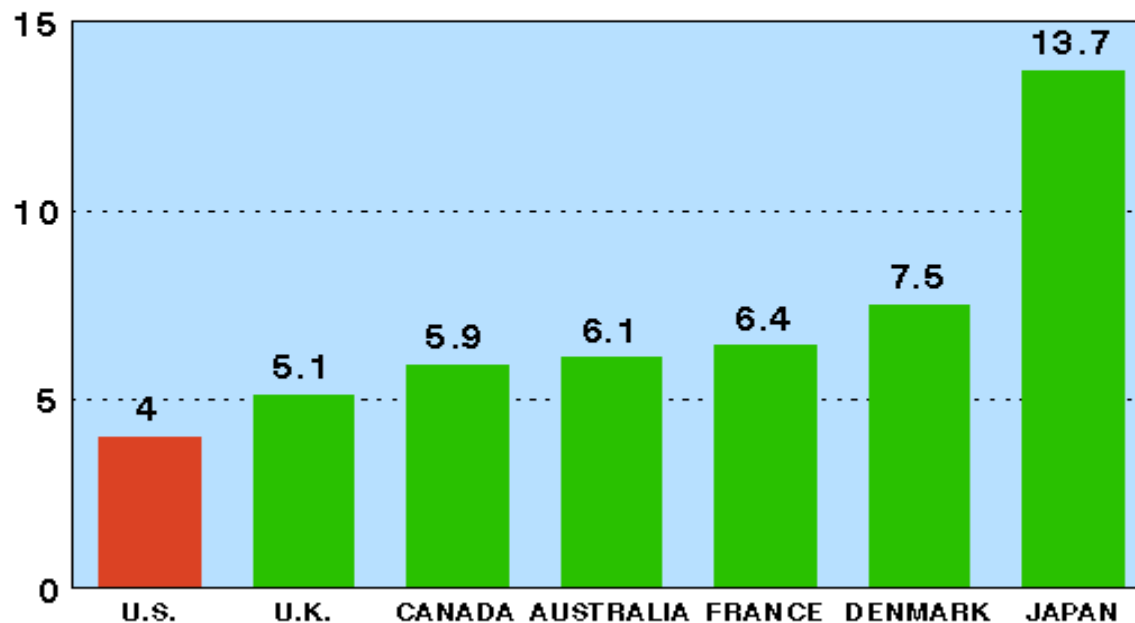


Source: OECD, 2008

Note: Data are for 2006 or most recent year available

# Our Access is Poor; People Don't Get to the Doctor

## Physician Visits Per Capita



Source: OECD, 2008 - Data are for 2006 or most recent available year

# Why don't people get to the doctor?

They can't afford to pay for health care;  
that's a primary reason.

# Why must Americans and businesses pay so much for health care?

The U.S. has a complex, inefficient method of paying for it that involves **excessive number of government programs** plus **over 1300 health insurance companies.**

# Why do the other countries have such a low cost per person?

They implemented a simple, efficient method of paying for health care:

**non-profit national health insurance.**

The **best version is “single-payer”**  
... the simplest and the most efficient.

“Single-payer” and its associated  
public agency is  
what the U.S. Congress  
should be establishing right now

“Single-payer” is the only solution for U.S. health  
care reform that eliminates the bureaucracy and  
provides the benefits listed at the  
“Benefits” link at [www.medicareforall.org](http://www.medicareforall.org)

Why most Americans have never heard of “single-payer”

... not from most of the media

... not from most of the politicians

It's the money!

It's the influence of companies and individuals who spend hundreds of millions of dollars to influence our opinion.

# How Money is Spent to Oppose and Influence Us

## **Money Influences the Media**

- Dollars on advertising products & services
- Dollars on the campaigns that are carefully designed to influence our opinions & even our activities
- Most media organizations demonstrate a major absence of reporting about single-payer that would educate the public

## **Money Influences the U.S. Congress**

- Dollars on political contributions
- Dollars on lobbyists who spend time time with our elected officials & their staffs

# The Influence of Money Will be Overcome by the Influence of Citizen Communications in order to benefit Americans and America

The immense power of the health insurance companies can and will be overcome with the overwhelming force of thousands of constituents communicating to each of the U.S. Representatives, who love to report to the press that very strong input was received from their constituents on a topic and that they responded positively to the input.

Translation: most members of the U.S. Congress want to get re-elected, so they want to do whatever that takes, including responding to the voters when the voters communicate to them what they want to have happen. We must communicate!

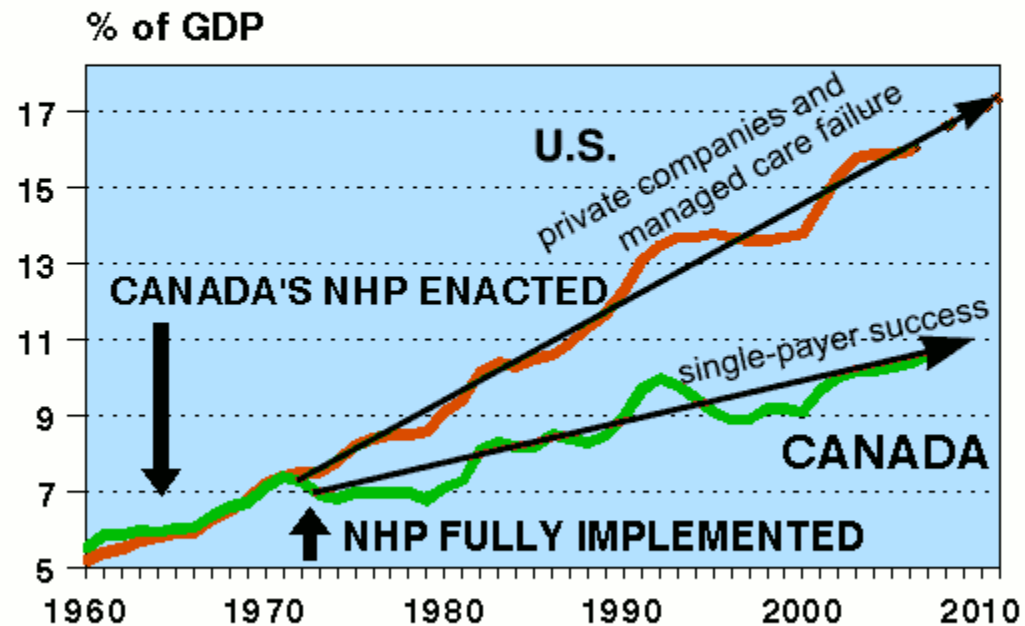
# What Has Occurred Around the World

For over 125 years the other countries have been implementing non-profit national health insurance, such as single-payer, while the U.S. has been increasing its use of for-profit insurance companies.

See the link to the details at the "World View" link at Additional Information at the end.

The U.S. use of for-profit companies has been a failure, seen by comparing Canada and the United States over the past 40 years -->

# Health Costs as % of GDP: U.S. & Canada, 1960-2010



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Inst. for Health Info., & NCHS/Commerce Dept

Canadians pay much less for health care, as seen in the graph. Canadian live 2-3 years longer. They automatically have health care.

# What is the impact on Americans?

The Homeless

The Silent (didn't want to bother their family) ... Now Deceased

The Financially Ruined

The Financially Stressed or Worried

Restrictions in Life Choices

Business Impact – Global Competition

Pain, Suffering and Deaths of the

Uninsured and Underinsured

The Rationed Health Care

The Suicides and Those Contemplating Suicide

The above list are categories of "Real Life Stories":  
testimonials about Americans' experiences at [www.medicareforall.org](http://www.medicareforall.org)

# The Mystery<sup>x</sup>

People of other free-market countries, including Americans living and working in those countries, are mystified. **They wonder in amazement why we Americans deny ourselves the benefits of non-profit national health insurance.**

Referring to the “Benefits of Single-Payer”, it's a mystery and an astonishment to them that the U.S. has not also implemented national health insurance, such as single-payer, the simplest, most-efficient version.

Reference: <http://www.medicareforall.org/pages/Benefits>

# Mystery: Expressions of It by Americans Abroad

About feelings among a crowd in Australia:

"... disbelief and shock that (the U.S.) could be so callously barbaric toward its own most vulnerable members."

**Australia:** "care received was excellent throughout (terminal cancer)" ... "care ... of the highest quality at no cost to myself"

**Canada:** "No bureaucrats ... No forms ... No long waits ... Nothing but **very high quality care** and my well used health care card."

**Canada:** "care was excellent and thorough."

**France:** "health care ... **never been better**"

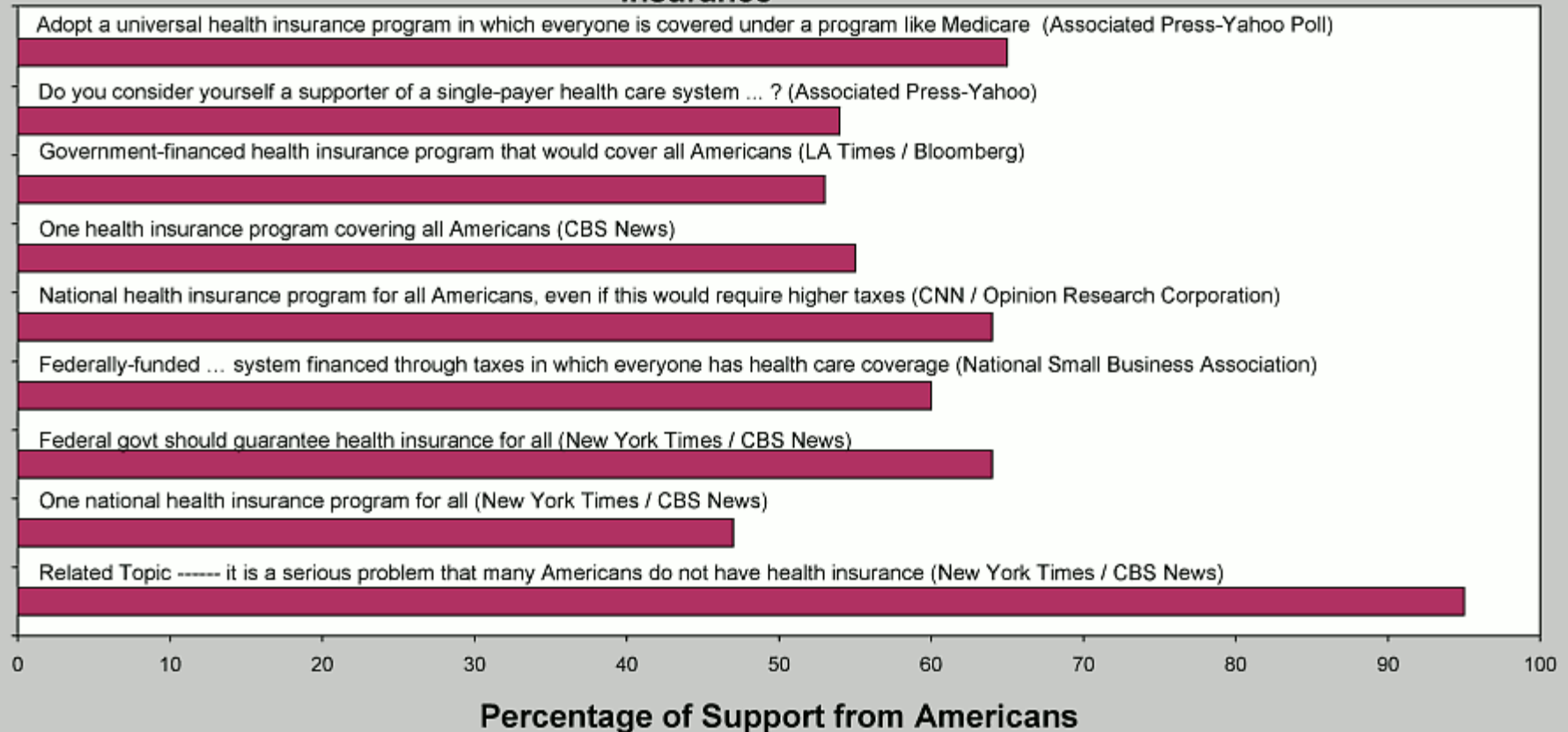
**Germany:** "received **excellent care** ... and ... did not have to pay any bills related to her hospital stay."

Read the above and more from Americans living & working in other countries:

[http://www.medicareforall.org/pages/Real\\_Life\\_Stories#other](http://www.medicareforall.org/pages/Real_Life_Stories#other)

# Americans Want Single-Payer

## Americans' Support of Single-Payer National Health Insurance



Americans have communicated that we want single-payer, not just in the many polls above. However, a million of us need to communicate much more to overcome the immense power of the money of the health insurance companies.

# Members of the U.S. Congress will listen when we send letters and make calls monthly to our U.S. Representatives

Until then, the support is extremely poor:

Support in the U.S. Senate (<3%)

Most of the U.S. House (<20%)

Some members of Congress say "Single-payer is best, but it's not "politically feasible." Citizens can make it "politically feasible" by communicating to their U.S. Representatives. We can exercise the power of the people. The power of a million of us communicating is greater than whatever millions or billions of dollars the health insurance companies spend to try to influence our opinion.

What is coming if we do not act:

**U.S. Senate:** Senator Max Baucus: not single-payer!

**U.S. House:** Rep. Nancy Pelosi: not single-payer!

# Message for the Middle Class

Rise up! You clearly need to be heard or you will be ignored. **You will either be hurt the most or benefit the most by the U.S. Congress regarding health care!**

Politicians will be impacted by your actions, but only if you take action ... Plan to vote!  
Print & sign and mail the letter monthly!  
Also make the toll-free phone call!

**SIGN UP FOR THE MILLION LETTERS FOR HEALTH CARE CAMPAIGN TO GET REMINDERS TO ACT.**

# Message for the Middle Class (continued)

Middle class income citizens of Massachusetts have been **hit hard by the Massachusetts mandated health insurance law.**

The U.S. Congress is basing its development of health reform on the Massachusetts law! They might start to deny it, but both they and their staff people have already told us multiple times. Like the people in Massachusetts, many of you will be hit hard financially, physically and emotionally.

# Mandated Health Insurance Hurts

Massachusetts implemented mandate health insurance in 2006. If you are rich enough to afford the expensive health insurance, you might be fine. If you are the poorest of the poor and are given care for free, you might be fine. But if you are anywhere else in the income brackets, which would be millions of Americans, then watch out for what would happen to you!

Testimonies at a U.S. Congressional briefing on 2/25/2009 and other sources of information document details of the failure of mandatory insurance in Massachusetts.

[http://www.medicareforall.org/pages/Massachusetts\\_Mandatory\\_Plan](http://www.medicareforall.org/pages/Massachusetts_Mandatory_Plan)

The facts and personal stories about this failure are being developed by Massachusetts citizens. The full "story" is yet to be told and is not yet available.

# Message for All Americans

The expected mandated (forced) health insurance law will negatively impact millions of Americans.

1. Dictating (forcing) Americans to buy for-profit health insurance plans.
2. Creating the opportunity for significantly more profits to be made by the health insurance companies at the expense of ordinary Americans

# Message for All Americans

(continued)

3. Expanding government as per at least these:
  - Regulations of private health insurance companies
  - Expansion of Medicaid, communicated by a Democrat \*
  - Premium Assistance, communicated by a Republican \*\*
  
4. Causing a dramatic increase in our cost of health care via higher health insurance premiums as the insurance companies try to maintain their profits while following the additional regulations.  
The dramatically high costs were already experienced by the state of New York among that state's counties.

\* Democrat: Senator Max Baucus in April 2009

\*\* Republican: Representative Dave Camp in April 2009

# The Choice of the Politicians in the U.S. Congress

Choice A	Choice B
Health Insurance Companies Are Maintained  Government Will Expand	Non-Profit Single-Payer National Health Insurance  Medicare for All ... everyone gets full health care for a lower cost: all ages, all income levels, all employment status (full time, part time, unemployed.)

Citizens want Choice B, but MUST communicate to get it.

# President Obama's Position on Single-Payer

June 2003	Strong supporter, seen in video
April 2007	He told a reporter that Americans must establish a mandate. He <b>recommended to a crowd of citizens that a thousand to two thousand letters to every U.S. Representative, which is roughly a million letters.</b>
March 2009	He said he's leaving it up to members of Congress (who must hear from us!).
<b>NOW!</b>	It's time to send letters & make calls!

The links to videos and audios are provided at Additional Information at the end.

# TIME TO ACT

We need to get the excessive  
number of government programs  
and  
the participation of health insurance  
companies  
out of our health care.

**The U.S. Congress will continue to expand both  
until we make the  
Million Letters for Health Care campaign a  
success by signing up for it and printing &  
sending letters and making phone calls.**

# Invitation to Take Action: What Individual Americans Can Do Immediately

## – Million Letters for Health Care Campaign

Letters in the U.S. Mail (the best action to demonstrate our determination) ... and/or Calls, where phone calls are for:

- additional action by those who either want to do MORE than letters
- actions for those who have no computer access and no e-mail address

## – Register to Vote ... and Vote!

Pay attention to whether or not your U.S. Representative is responding positively to the need for them to support H.R. 676 AND to communicate publicly about their support AND getting other members of the U.S. House to support it

**1** letter into the U.S. Mail  
[and/or telephone call with a 10-word statement]  
to **1** person (U.S. Representative)  
**1** time per month after getting a  
reminder by e-mail or by phone  
on the **1st** of each month

The letter is already prepared  
and is pre-addressed.

Each reminder:  
includes a set of suggestions  
for a sentence to add by hand  
to add value to the letter

Million Letters  
for Health Care  
Status: mid-May 2009

**Over 138 U.S. Congressional Districts**  
**36 States**

A 2007 idea became  
this 2009 massive citizen action.

# How to Share This Information

Tell people about [www.medicareforall.org](http://www.medicareforall.org)  
and suggest that they sign up.

Also select "**Resources**" ...

- This information packet to view and/or print:  
"**What Every American Should Know (pdf)**"
- The 2-page handout (intended to be double-sided):  
"**Benefits of Single-Payer (pdf)**"  
which provides more info about single-payer.

# Referrals

Do you know of anyone else, such as in the immediate neighborhood, who could benefit from getting information and some explanation?

Do you know of anyone else in the area or in Michigan or in the U.S. who might want to be contacted or need to be contacted?

If yes, please let the campaign know by sending us a note with the person's name, city, state and phone number (and, preferably, also include their address):

[info@www.medicareforall.org](mailto:info@www.medicareforall.org)

# Additional Information

## **The free-market high-income countries:**

all with non-profit national health insurance except the U.S.

Australia	Greece	New Zealand
Austria	Hungary	Norway
Belgium	Iceland	Portugal
Canada	Ireland	Slovak Republic
Czech Republic	Italy	Spain
Denmark	Japan	Sweden
Finland	Korea	Switzerland
France	Luxembourg	United Kingdom
Germany	Netherlands	<b>United States</b>

See the World View at [www.medicareforall.org/pages/World\\_View](http://www.medicareforall.org/pages/World_View)  
>>> what the other countries did while our U.S. Congress  
went the wrong direction.

# Additional Information

(continued)

## Benefits of Single-Payer

<http://www.medicareforall.org/pages/Benefits>

## Real Life Stories: Americans in the U.S. and Americans living and working abroad

[http://www.medicareforall.org/pages/Real\\_Life\\_Stories](http://www.medicareforall.org/pages/Real_Life_Stories)

## Popular Support of Single-Payer

[http://www.medicareforall.org/pages/Monitor\\_Popular\\_Support](http://www.medicareforall.org/pages/Monitor_Popular_Support)

- including endorsers/supporters, including some media

## About Massachusetts Mandated Health Insurance

[http://www.medicareforall.org/pages/Massachusetts\\_Mandatory\\_Plan](http://www.medicareforall.org/pages/Massachusetts_Mandatory_Plan)

# Additional Information

(continued)

## President Obama

- was a strong supporter in 2003

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpAyan1fXCE>

- will be a strong supporter now if we follow his recommendation

[http://www.medicareforall.org/pages/Obama\\_Recommends\\_Letters](http://www.medicareforall.org/pages/Obama_Recommends_Letters)

## Single-Payer Education

- [http://www.medicareforall.org/pages/Single-Payer\\_Education](http://www.medicareforall.org/pages/Single-Payer_Education)