Economists in Support of a Medicare for All Health Care System
An Open Letter to the Congress and People of the United States

May 21, 2019

As economists, we understand that a single-payer “Medicare for All” health insurance system for the U.S. can finance good-quality care for all U.S. residents as a basic right while still significantly reducing overall health care spending relative to the current exorbitant and wasteful system. Health care is not a service that follows standard market rules. It should therefore be provided as a public good.

Evidence from around the world demonstrates that publicly financed health care systems result in improved health outcomes, lower costs, and greater equity. As of 2017, the U.S. spent $3.3 trillion annually on health care. This equaled 17 percent of U.S. GDP, with average spending at about $10,000 per person. By contrast, Germany, France, Japan, Canada, the U.K., Australia, Spain and Italy spent between 9 – 11 percent of GDP on health care, averaging $3,400 to $5,700 per person. Yet average health outcomes in all of these countries are superior to those in the United States. In all of these countries, the public sector is predominant in financing health care.

For these reasons the time is now to create a universal, single-payer, Medicare for All health care system in the United States.

Public financing for health is not a matter of raising new money for healthcare, but of reducing total healthcare outlays and distributing payments more equitably and efficiently. Implementing a unified single-payer system would reduce administrative costs and eliminate individuals’ and employers’ insurance premiums and out-of-pocket costs. If combined with public control of drug prices and a dramatically simplified global budgeting system, a sensible Medicare financing system would reduce healthcare costs while guaranteeing access to comprehensive care and financial security to all.

As such, we support publicly and equitably financed health care through a Medicare for All system at the Federal level, as described in H.R. 1384 and S. 1129. We encourage Congress to move forward with implementing a public financed Medicare for All plan to achieve the equitable and affordable universal health care system that the American people need.

Signed,

1 Randy Albelda, Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Boston
2 Carolyn B. Aldana, Professor Emeritus, California State University, San Bernardino
3 Mona Ali, Associate Professor of Economics, SUNY New Paltz
4 Larry Allen, Professor of Economics, Lamar University
5 Jack Amariglio, Emeritus Professor of Economics, Merrimack College
6 Eileen Appelbaum, Co-Director and Senior Economist, Center for Economic and Policy Research
7 Peter Arno, Senior Fellow & Director Health Policy Research, Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
8 Michael Ash, Professor of Economics & Public Policy, University of Massachusetts Amherst
9 Glen Atkinson, Emeritus Professor of Economics, University of Nevada, Reno
10 M V Lee Badgett, Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst
11 Ron Baiman, Assistant Professor of Economics, Benedictine University
12 Dean Baker, Senior Economist, Center for Economic and Policy Research
13 Erdogan Bakir, Associate Professor of Economics, Bucknell University
14 Radhika Balakrishnan, Professor, Rutgers University
15 Nina Banks, Associate Professor of Economics, Bucknell University
16 David Barkin, Distinguished Professor, Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana
17 Charles Barone, Professor Emeritus, Dickinson College
18 Deepankar Basu, Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst
19 Lourdes Beneria, Professor Emerita, Cornell University
20 Peter H. Bent, Assistant Professor, American University of Paris
21 Suzanne Bergeron, Professor, University of Michigan Dearborn
22 Cyrus Bina, Distinguished Research Professor of Economics, University of Minnesota (Morris Campus), and Fellow, Economists for Peace and Security
23 Josh Bivens, Research Director, Economic Policy Institute
24 Robert A. Blecker, Professor of Economics, American University
25 Peter Bohmer, Faculty in Economics and Political Economy, The Evergreen State College
26 Howard Botwinick, Associate Professor of Economics, SUNY Cortland
27 Roger Even Bove, Ph.D. in Economics, West Chester University (retired)
28 James K. Boyce, Professor Emeritus, University of Massachusetts Amherst
29 Robert Brenner, Director, Center for Social Theory and Comparative History, UCLA
30 Michael Brün, Instructor, Heartland Community College
31 Antonio Callari, Professor, Franklin and Marshall College
32 Al Campbell, Emeritus Professor of Economics, University of Utah
33 Martha Campbell, Associate Professor of Economics, Emeritus, SUNY Potsdam
34 Jim Campen, Professor of Economics, Emeritus, University of Massachusetts Boston
35 José Caraballo, Professor, University of Puerto Rico
36 Scott Carter, Professor of Economics, The University of Tulsa
37 James F Casey, Associate Professor of Economics, Washington and Lee University
38 John Dennis Chasse, Professor Emeritus, SUNY College at Brockport
39 Ying Chen, Assistant Professor of Economics, The New School
40 Robert Chernomas, Professor of Economics, University of Manitoba
41 Kimberly Christensen, Economics Professor, Sarah Lawrence College
42 Douglas Cliggott, Lecturer, Economics, University of Massachusetts
43 Nathaniel Cline, Associate Professor, University of Redlands
44 Richard Cornwall, Professor Emeritus, Middlebury College
45 James Crotty, Emeritus Professor, University of Massachusetts
46 Dr. James Cypher, Professor of Economics, Universidad Autonoma de Zacatecas, Mexico, and Emeritus Professor, California State University
47 Omar Dahi, Hampshire College
48 Anita Dancs, Associate Professor of Economics, Western New England University
49 Flavia Dantas, Associate Professor of Economics, SUNY Cortland
50 Paul Davidson, Emeritus Professor Chair of Honor, University of Tennessee
51 Charles Davis, Professor of Labor Studies, Indiana University
52 Leila Davis, Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts Boston
53 Carmen Diana Deere, Distinguished Professor Emerita, University of Florida
54 George DeMartino, Professor, JKSIS, University of Denver
55 Firat Demir, Professor, University of Oklahoma
56 James G. Devine, Professor of Economics, Loyola Marymount University
57 Geert Dhondt, Associate Professor, John Jay College, CUNY
58 Peter Dorman, Professor of Political Economy, Evergreen State College
59 Richard Du Boff, Professor Emeritus, Bryn Mawr College
60 Marie C. Duggan, Professor of Economics, Keene State College
61 Amitava Krishna Dutt, Professor of Economics and Political Science, University of Notre Dame
62 Nina Eichacker, Assistant Professor, University of Rhode Island
63 David P Ellerman, Visiting Scholar, University of California at Riverside
64 Gerald Epstein, Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst
65 Thomas Ferguson, Professor Emeritus, University of Massachusetts Boston
66 Ellen Fitzpatrick, Professor, Merrimack College
67 Sean Flaherty, Professor of Economics, Franklin and Marshall College
68 Nancy Folbre, Professor Emerita of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst
69 Mariko Frame, Assistant Professor of Economics, Merrimack College
70 Dania V. Francis, Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Anders Fremstad, Assistant Professor, Colorado State University
Gerald Friedman, Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst
James K. Galbraith, Professor, University of Texas at Austin
Barbara Garson, Author, *Money Makes the World Go Round*
Armagan Gezici, Associate Professor of Economics, Keene State College
Helen Lachs Ginsburg, Professor Emerita of Economics, Brooklyn College/CUNY
Mwangi Wa Githinji, Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Art Goldsmith, Professor of Economics, Washington and Lee University
Neva Goodwin, Co-director, GDAE, Tufts University
Ulla Grapard, Professor of Economics and Women's Studies, Emerita, Colgate University
Robert Guttmann, Augustus B Weller Professor of Economics, Hofstra University
Robin E Hahnel, Professor Emeritus, American University
John Battaile Hall, Professor of Economics, Portland State University
Jay Hamilton, Assistant Professor, John Jay College
Greg P. Hannsgen, Founder and Blogger, Greg Hannsgen's Economics Blog, and Research Associate, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College
John T. Harvey, Professor of Economics, Texas Christian University
Baban Hasnat, Professor of International Business, SUNY Brockport
Erin Hayde, Consultant, World Bank
F. Gregory Hayden, Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Carol E. Heim, Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst
John Forrest Henry, Senior Scholar, Levy Economics Institute, and Adjunct Professor, University of Missouri-Kansas City
Conrad M. Herold, Associate Professor of Economics, Hofstra University
P. Sai-wing Ho, Professor, University of Denver
Joan Hoffman, Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice CUNY
Barbara Hopkins, Professor, Wright State University
Candace Howes, Professor of Economics, Connecticut College
Eric Hoyt, Ph.D. in Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Research Director, Center for Employment Equity
Julio Huato, Associate Professor of Economics, St. Francis College
Joseph Michael Hunt, Instructor, Environmental and Health Policy, Harvard University
Dorene Isenberg, Professor of Economics, University of Redlands
Tae-Hee Jo, Associate Professor, SUNY Buffalo State
Fadhel Kaboub, Associate Professor of Economics, Denison University, and President, Global Institute for Sustainable Prosperity
Stephanie A Kelton, Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Stony Brook University, and Senior Economic Advisor, Bernie2020 Presidential Campaign

Haider A Khan, John Evans Distinguished University Professor, University of Denver

Mu-Jeong Kho, University College London, the University of London

Marlene Kim, Professor, University of Massachusetts Boston

Mary C. King, Professor of Economics Emerita, Portland State University

Charalampous Konstantinidis, Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts Boston

Kazim Konyar, Professor of Economics, California State University, San Bernardino

Douglas Koritz, Professor of Economics, St Francis College

Brent Kramer, Adjunct Assistant Professor, City University of New York

Patrick L Mason, Professor of Economics, Florida State University, and Director, African American Studies Program

David Laibman, Professor Emeritus, Economics, City University of New York, and Editor, Science & Society

Thomas Lambert, Lecturer, University of Louisville

Anthony Laramie, Professor of Economics, Merrimack College

Margaret Levenstein, Research Professor, Institute for Social Research and School of Information, University of Michigan

An Li, Assistant Professor, Sarah Lawrence College

Victor D. Lippit, Professor Emeritus of Economics, University of California, Riverside

James Luke, Professor of Economics, Lansing Community College

Daniel MacDonald, Assistant Professor, California State University San Bernardino

Arthur MacEwan, Professor Emeritus of Economics, University of Massachusetts Boston

Allan MacNeill, Professor, Webster University

Zagros Madjd-Sadjadi, Full Professor of Economics, Winston-Salem State University, and Former Chief Economist, City and County of San Francisco

Yahya M. Madra, Associate Professor of Economics, Drew University

Theresa Mannah-Blankson, Assistant Professor of Economics, Messiah College

Thomas Masterson, Director of Applied Micromodeling, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College

Gabriel Mathy, Assistant Professor, American University

Peter H Matthews, Dana Professor of Economics, Middlebury College

Scott McConnell, Associate Professor of Economics, Eastern Oregon University, and Owner/CEO, Side A Brewing

Elaine McCrate, Economics Professor Emerita, University of Vermont

Terrence McDonough, Professor Emeritus, National University Ireland Galway

Martin Melkonian, Adjunct Associate Professor, Economics, Hofstra University
133 Peter B. Meyer, Professor Emeritus of Urban Policy and Economics, University of Louisville
134 Thomas Michl, Professor of Economics, Colgate University
135 John Miller, Professor of Economics, Wheaton College
136 Katherine A. Moos, Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst
137 Monique Morrissey, Economist, Economic Policy Institute
138 Tracy Mott, Professor, University of Denver
139 Michele Naples, Professor of Economics, The College of New Jersey
140 Daniel H. Neilson, Faculty in Economics, Bard College at Simon's Rock
141 Edward J. Nell, Emeritus Professor, New School for Social Research
142 Julie A. Nelson, Professor, University of Massachusetts Boston
143 Reynold F. Nesiba, Professor of Economics, Augustana University
144 John Casey Nicolarsen, Visiting Professor, Sarah Lawrence College
145 Eric Nilsson, Professor, California State University San Bernardino
146 Erik Olsen, Associate Professor, University of Missouri Kansas City
147 Paulette Olson, Professor Emerita, Wright State University
148 Lenore Palladino, Senior Economist, Roosevelt Institute
149 Christian Parenti, Associate Professor Department of Economics, John Jay College CUNY
150 Mark Paul, Assistant Professor of Economics, New College of Florida
151 Eva Paus, Professor of Economics, Mount Holyoke College
152 Karen A Pfeifer, Professor Emerita of Economics, Smith College
153 Lynda Pickbourn, Assistant Professor of Economics, Hampshire College
154 Bruce Pietrykowski, Professor of Economics, University of Michigan-Dearborn
155 Chiara Piovani, Associate Professor, University of Denver
156 Robert Pollin, Distinguished Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Co-Director, Political Economy Research Institute (PERI)
157 Devin T. Rafferty, Assistant Professor, Saint Peter's University, and Founding Director, MS Finance Program
158 Pratistha Joshi Rajkarnikar, Postdoc Scholar, Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University
159 Michael Robinson, Professor of Economics, Mount Holyoke College
160 John Roche, Associate Professor Emeritus, St John Fisher College
161 Leonard Rodberg, Emeritus Professor of Urban Studies, Queens College/CUNY
162 Leanne Roncolato, Assistant Professor of Economics, Franklin and Marshall College
163 Frank Roosevelt, Emeritus Professor of Economics, Sarah Lawrence College
Jaime Ros, Emeritus Professor, University of Notre Dame, and Professor of Economics, National Autonomous University of Mexico

Nancy E. Rose, Professor Emeritus, California State University San Bernardino

Trevor R. Roycroft, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Ohio University

David F. Ruccio, Professor of Economics, University of Notre Dame

Jeffrey D. Sachs, Professor, Columbia University

Gregory M. Saltzman, Professor of Economics and Management, Albion College

John Sarich, The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art

John Schmitt, Vice President, Economic Policy Institute

Jeremy Schwartz, Associate Professor, Loyola University Maryland

Elliott Sclar, Emeritus Professor, Columbia University

Mark Setterfield, Professor of Economics, New School for Social Research

Anwar Shaikh, Professor, New School for Social Research

Barry G. Shelley, Senior Lecturer, Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University

Zoe Sherman, Assistant Professor of Economics, Merrimack College

Heidi Shierholz, Senior Economist and Director of Policy, Economic Policy Institute

Hee-Young Shin, Assistant Professor, Wright State University

Nicholas Shunda, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Redlands

Kellin Stanfield, Assistant Professor of Economics, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Howard Stein, Professor, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Jose A. Tapia, Associate Professor, Drexel University

Linwood Tauheed, Associate Professor, University of Missouri Kansas City

Daniele Tavani, Associate Professor, Colorado State University

Pavlina R. Tcherneva, Program Director and Associate Professor of Economics, Bard College, and Research Associate, Levy Economics Institute

Chris Tilly, Professor of Urban Planning, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs

E. Ahmet Tonak, Visiting Professor, Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Mariano Torras, Professor, Adelphi University

Andres Torres, Distinguished Lecturer, Lehman College (retired)

Mayo Toruno, Professor Emeritus, California State University San Bernardino

Eric Tymoigne, Associate Professor of Economics, Lewis & Clark College

Vamsi Vakulabharanam, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst

William Van Lear, Economics Professor, Belmont Abbey College
196 Ramaa Vasudevan, Associate Professor, Colorado State University
197 Tanadej Vechsuruck, Assistant Professor, University of Rhode Island
198 William Waller, Professor of Economics, Hobart and William Smith Colleges
199 John P. Watkins, Professor of Economics, Westminster College, and Adjunct Professor of Economics, University of Utah
200 David F. Weiman, Professor of Economics, Barnard College, Columbia University
201 Scott A. Weir, Ph.D. in Economics, Retired
202 Jeannette Wicks-Lim, Associate Research Professor, Political Economy Research Institute
203 Noé Wiener, Lecturer, University of Massachusetts Amherst
204 Robert B. Williams, Professor of Economics, Guilford College
205 John Willoughby, Professor, Department of Economics, American University
206 Benjamin Wilson, Assistant Professor, SUNY Cortland
207 Lucas Wilson, Professor, Mount Holyoke College
208 Valerie Wilson, Director, Program on Race, Ethnicity & the Economy, Economic Policy Institute
209 Andrew J Winnick, Professor Emeritus, California State University Los Angeles
210 Jon D. Wisman, Professor of Economics, American University
211 Richard D. Wolff, Professor of Economics Emeritus, University of Massachusetts Amherst
212 L. Randall Wray, Professor of Economics and Senior Scholar, Bard College and Levy Economics Institute
213 Brenda Wyss, Associate Professor, Wheaton College Massachusetts
214 Yavuz Yasar, Associate Professor, University of Denver
215 Tai Young-Taft, Assistant Professor of Economics, Bard College at Simon's Rock, and Research Scholar, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College
216 June Zaccone, Associate Professor of Economics, Emerita, Hofstra University
217 Ajit Zacharias, Senior Scholar, Levy Economics Institute
218 German A. Zarate-Hoyos, Associate Professor, SUNY Cortland
219 Gabriel Zucman, Assistant Professor of Economics, University of California, Berkeley