



## **MORE ON WHY WE NEED A PUBLIC OPTION**

### **CHOICE**

Americans deserve the right to choose their own healthcare. Congress must act to give Americans more choices for their personal healthcare by allowing universal availability of a public healthcare option like Medicare. Limiting choice to for-profit insurance only, is the same broken healthcare system we have right now.

### **COMPETITION**

Capitalism thrives on competition. The more healthcare choices the American consumer has to choose from the harder the healthcare supplier will work to be chosen. A public healthcare option would bring new competition into the market driving lower prices and incentives for better service and care.

### **COMFORT**

There is no need to create something new or unfamiliar to the American people. Americans already know about for-profit insurance and they already know about Medicare. Medicare has been around for over 40 years. Most people know someone over the age of 65 already on Medicare. There is nothing new about Medicare, now we need to make a public option like Medicare available to all Americans.

### **SMALL BUSINESS HEALTHCARE FACTS**

- Small businesses provide nearly 80% of American jobs. Out of the 46 million Americans living without healthcare, about 60% work for small businesses. With insurance premiums rising at a rate between 10 or 20% each year, we can't expect the 80% of American jobs that small businesses create to keep up.
- The government, private sector and individuals combined spend over \$1.9 trillion annually on healthcare expenses; more than any other industrialized country.
- In 2007, the United States spent 16% of its GDP on healthcare, higher than any other developed nation. With no change in our current system, this number will rise to 25% by 2025.
- Access to employer-sponsored healthcare is on the decline for low-income workers
- At 12% of overhead costs, healthcare is the most expensive benefit paid by US employers
- GM reports that it spent over \$5.6 billion on healthcare expenses for its 1.1 million employees in 2006. This cost adds \$1,500 to \$2,000 to the sticker price of every automobile GM produces—proving that we can keep overall costs down if we provide a public healthcare option.
- Healthcare expenses make it difficult for small business owners to hire top candidates and stay competitive in the job market.
- For every \$100 the United States pours into our wasteful healthcare system, leading economic competitors like Japan, Canada, the UK, Germany and France spend an average of .63 cents and still have higher life expectancy rates.
- The United States falls at a major competitive disadvantage against rising economic powers like Brazil, India—for every dollar the US spends on healthcare, these countries spend 15 cents.

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