



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.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Dr. Dean's plan?

Governor Howard Dean, M.D., is not proposing a specific plan. We are drawing a line in the sand over the key principle of real healthcare reform: availability of a public healthcare option. A universally available public option like Medicare is the only way to guarantee healthcare for all Americans and its inclusion in healthcare legislation passed by Congress this year is non-negotiable.

What does "universally available" mean?

A universally available public option would be open to anyone regardless of gender, race, religion, income or employer.

What does "public option" mean?

A public option would allow anyone and everyone to choose a healthcare plan provided by the government like Medicare is today.

What about single payer healthcare?

In America, we already offer single payer healthcare to our Veterans through the Veterans Health Administration. Americans over the age of 65 already benefit from a single payer system provided in Medicare. Single payer systems thrive in every other industrialized country where citizens have government provided healthcare.

Our position is that even in those countries, like Britain and Canada, citizens are allowed to purchase for-profit insurance -- if they want it. We believe Americans deserve the right to choose their own healthcare and therefore a public healthcare option like Medicare must be made available for any American to choose.