

# An urgent message from your local doctors.

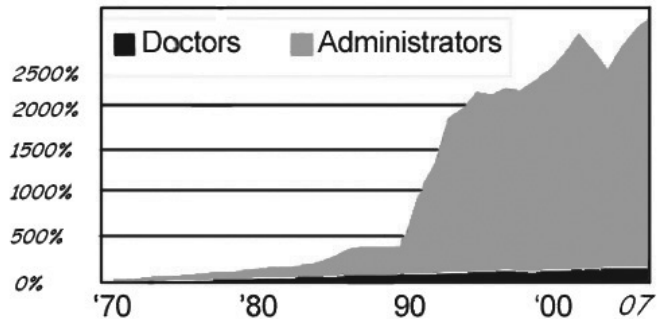
One in 5 Tucsonans and one in 4 Phoenicians have no healthcare insurance. That is 108,000 and 381,000 people left vulnerable to catastrophe, in just our two largest cities. Our country spends twice as much as other nations that cover all their citizens and yet we leave millions without coverage.

Those with private healthcare insurance find that when a serious health event occurs, coverage is far from complete. The leading cause of bankruptcy is due to medical expenses, and 3/4 of these bankruptcies occurred with citizens who had insurance. We have all heard these tragic stories.

## Here is the major reason why we do not have healthcare coverage for all our citizens, as other nations do.

Growth of the number of Physicians compared to Health Insurance Company Administrators, 1970-2007.

This costly army of clerks and administrators is there to find reasons to deny care, not to facilitate it. The overhead average for private insurance plans is 12-15%; for Medicare, it is 3%. The current proposals will only expand the use of this wasteful and costly system and further raise premiums to even more unaffordable levels. It would force citizens to buy these plans or pay a penalty.



This is not sustainable despite the efforts of 3,300 highly paid lobbyists now in Washington, D.C. spending \$2 million per day to pressure politicians to continue it.

## The best solution to providing healthcare for all Americans is to improve and expand Medicare and make it available to all citizens.

Medicare for all would save \$225 to 400 billion each year by eliminating the massive overhead expense and profit of the current medical insurance system and cover all.

All other proposals would cost more (up to \$1 trillion over 10 years) and not cover all.

Pay less and cover all, or pay more and not cover all. Not difficult to understand.

The majority of physicians in the U.S. support government legislation to establish National Health Insurance that covers all our citizens.

The 86,000 members of the National Nurses Organizing Committee/ California Nurses Association have long endorsed Medicare for all.

The majority of U.S. citizens in multiple polls support healthcare coverage for all. The AFL/CIO has unanimously endorsed Medicare for all.

86 members of the House of Representatives support Medicare for all (HR 676).

Who does not support Medicare for all? The medical insurance and pharmaceutical industries and too many politicians who receive large amounts of money from them.

Medicare for all is the best option to offer our citizens. It has worked well for 44 years for seniors and the disabled; essentially no one who has it wants to give up this basic protection.

It is portable, cannot be canceled, is independent of employment, has no exclusions for health problems, and is good for coverage anywhere in the country.

One may choose one's own doctor and hospital, more choice than with any private plan. It is American medicine, not socialized medicine. Care is given by private physicians, not government employees.

Medicare for all means that care is decided between you and your doctor, not with a clerk or administrator in-between.

Our Congressional representatives cannot duck this responsibility; our viability as a civilized nation requires that health care protection be there for all. Administrators and politicians do not provide care. Doctors do.

*Please contact Rep. Gabrielle Giffords at 881-3588, Rep. Raul Grijalva at 622-6788, Senator John McCain at 670-6334 and Sen. Jon Kyl at 575-8633 and strongly urge that they support Medicare for all legislation. If they do not, have them explain to you why they do not.*

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### References:

**[www.pnhp.org](http://www.pnhp.org). (Physicians for a National Health Program)**

**[www.ourailinghealthcare.com](http://www.ourailinghealthcare.com). (Health, Money and Fear)**