



**Rise Up West Virginia**

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## **West Virginians need Medicare for All**

All West Virginians deserve healthcare.

But **the healthcare system in America is broken**. Too many West Virginians can't get the care we need.

- Twenty-eight million Americans do not have health insurance.
- Medical debt is the most common cause of personal bankruptcy.
- Workers' contributions to health insurance premiums have gone up 4 times faster than wages since 2000.
- For millions of Americans, it is cheaper to pay a penalty than to get health insurance under the Affordable Care Act.
- According to the National Federation of Independent Business, health insurance cost is "the most severe" problem facing American small businesses.

Meanwhile, CEOs in the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries are among the highest paid in the country. The largest six health insurance corporations earned \$6 billion in profits in the second quarter of 2017, up 29% from the prior year. **We pay more for healthcare than any other developed country, but we have among the worst health outcomes.**

**We need a healthcare system that works for all of us.** We need a "Medicare for All" universal healthcare system, financed by progressive taxation, that covers everyone. Under "Medicare for All":

- Everyone would be able to get the healthcare they need.
- Healthcare would be affordable for all, regardless of income.
- There would be a universal system, giving people the freedom to see any doctor they need without worrying about whether they are in a "network."
- Healthcare decisions would be made by patients and providers, rather than the insurance or pharmaceutical industries.
- Business owners would not be responsible for healthcare costs – making businesses more competitive, allowing employees greater choice of where they can work and eliminating union struggles over health insurance.

*Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and inhuman.*

- Martin Luther King, Jr.