



September 10, 2020

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
U.S. Senate
332 Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal
U.S. House of Representatives
1510 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for S. 1129 (Sanders) and H.R. 1384 (Jayapal)—The Medicare for All Acts of 2019

Dear Senator Sanders and Congressman Jayapal:

As Mayors of the cities of Long Beach and Oakland, California, we support S. 1129 (Sanders) and H.R. 1384 (Jayapal), the Medicare for All Acts of 2019. The need to expand health insurance coverage to all U.S. residents is great and is why we have launched the Mayors for Medicare for All. Our coalition has three goals: to create a network of mayors who endorse Medicare for All, submit a formal resolution of support to the U.S. Conference of Mayors for adoption, and work with the next administration and Congress to adopt Medicare for All legislation.

Healthcare is a human right. Yet, under our current healthcare system, more than 30 million Americans are either uninsured or underinsured because they cannot afford to pay rising health costs, and communities of color and low-income residents are disproportionately impacted by a lack of access to quality healthcare. While the U.S. spends more than twice as much per capita on healthcare as other countries like Canada, Germany, and the United Kingdom, an estimated two-thirds of Americans filing for bankruptcy cite medical issues as the primary factor leading to financial hardship, and thousands of people die each year because they cannot afford the services they need.

We must transform our country's healthcare system to guarantee universal healthcare for all. As leaders in local communities, we know first-hand, the importance access to healthcare has for working families, the ability to focus on education, work and quality of life. We strongly support efforts to establish a national health insurance program to provide every resident with healthcare through expanded Medicare and comprehensive benefits.

Given these reasons, we support the Medicare for All Acts.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach, California

Mayor Libby Schaaf
City of Oakland, California

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, House Speaker
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, House Minority Leader
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Senator
The Honorable Kamala Harris, Senator
The Honorable Alan Lowenthal, Congressman
The Honorable Nanette Barragan, Congresswoman
The Honorable Barbara Lee, Congresswoman