



# Health Care is a Human Right



## **WELCOME**

**We know you agree that now is the time to act and create a health care system that allows all of us access to quality, affordable health care.** A campaign is underway that endeavors to create a health system that is guided by human rights principles. It's a provision of the Affordable Care Act and would transform our health care system as we know it.

Welcome to our February Health Care is a Human Right newsletter! Every month, we will keep you up to date on the progress of the campaign.

In this issue you will learn about:

- Hearing Friday
- Lobby Day
- PNHP Meeting
- Newsroom

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## **Intent to Cover Hearing**

This Friday, the House Health Care & Wellness committee will hold an executive session to consider HB 1321, the Intent to Cover All Washingtonians by 2020 bill. This is the first, important step towards single-payer health care in Washington. The hearing starts at 8:00 a.m. in the O'Brien building, Room A.

More details about the bill [here](#).

## **Washington CAN Lobby Day**

On Presidents Day, Monday, February 15, Washington CAN is traveling to Olympia for a Lobby Day and Health Care is one of our focuses. We will meet at the Washington State Labor Council at 906 Columbia Street SW in Olympia at 10:00 a.m.

There, we'll train and prepare for a day of meeting with elected officials and staging an action on the capitol steps focused on health care.

To register for lobby day [CLICK THIS LINK](#)

## PNHP Annual Meeting

On Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, the Physicians for a National Health Program; Western Washington Chapter are holding an annual public meeting. The theme of the event is: *Fixing Health Care: Principles Versus Profits*. John Nichols, of The Nation Magazine and Donna Smith, Executive Director of Health Care for All Colorado are featured speakers.

Doors open one hour before the 7pm event at University of Washington's Kane Hall Room 120.

For more information about this free event, email [pnhp.westernwashington@comcast.net](mailto:pnhp.westernwashington@comcast.net).

## Newsroom

### **A Single-Payer Health System is Looking Better All the Time** *Newsweek*

Last week, the editorial board of The Washington Post charged that Bernie Sanders's health care plan rests on "unbelievable assumptions" about how much it would slash health care costs without affecting the care ordinary Americans receive.

The Post claimed that countries with the kind of single-payer plans Sanders likes "ration care in ways that federal health programs in the United States...do not."

[Read more](#)

### **'Single Payer Saves Money by Saying No to the Insurance Industry'** *FAIR*

Janine Jackson: A Washington Post columnist writes that we need to admit that healthcare reform's twin goals, comprehensive universal insurance and cost control, are at odds. The New York Times reports that a single-payer system requires unpopular taxes, making it, even in the eyes of sympathetic Democrats, politically impossible. And USA Today says the US hasn't seriously considered single payer because it would cause great disruption to the economy, result in higher taxes, and give the federal government vast new powers.

[Read more](#)

### **Colorado leaders launch campaign against single-payer health proposal** *The Denver Post*

The campaign to defeat a proposal for a single-payer health insurance system in Colorado is kicking off Thursday with some high-profile leaders. Walker Stapleton, the Republican state treasurer, and former governor Bill Ritter, a Democrat, will co-chair what is being billed as a bipartisan campaign to oppose Amendment 69. The opposition strategy will be outlined during a morning news conference at the Denver

Metro Chamber of Commerce, which also is contributing campaign leaders.

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