Health Care: What Do People Need?

The simplest answer is, we all need health care at some point in our lives. It isn't optional, or a luxury, or a privilege.

What people experience all too often in our current system:

Stress and confusion about medical bills, what's covered and not covered, whether a doctor or hospital is in or out of network. Medical bills that drain savings and the ability to pay for other important things, and even cause bankruptcies. Not knowing how they will pay for care if something bad happens, even if they have insurance. Not knowing how much health insurance will cost from year to year. Ever-higher deductibles to make monthly premiums more affordable. Insurance companies denying claims for care that providers prescribe.

"Eamon needed to be in the hospital after he was born, and we shouldn't have had this hanging over our heads. Why was this so stressful and confusing?"

–Evelyn Roach, Portland Press Herald, Aug. 2022
Full article

BREAKING

Most Americans Worry About Accessing Health Care, Poll Finds

Full article

What people really need:

Access to health care when we need it. Freedom to choose providers, and to make health care decisions with those providers. Health care that's affordable. To be able to focus on care rather than medical bills, insurance plans, etc.

"...having a choice of health care providers matters more to people than having a choice of health plans."

–Jeanne Lambrew, Commonwealth Fund, 2005
Full article

Eddie
@SoSocialism

If a doctor says I need it why can my insurance company tell me I don't?

Pew Research Center

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SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

Increasing share of Americans favor a single government program to provide health care coverage

Full article

In a survey of Maine residents conducted by Maine AllCare in 2019, more than 80% said they would strongly or slightly support "a national improved and expanded Medicare for All health care system." A similar number (81%), said they would support "a publicly funded health care system that covered everyone in Maine" if the federal government was "unable to pass universal health care coverage."

Maine AllCare Health Care Survey (2019)

"We need universal health care, now."

Pam Gross
"A Community that Cares"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKA-VHp-eCU

Imagine:

Everyone has health care. Crippling **medical debt and medical bankruptcies disappear**. **Maine towns and cities** can apply funds, time, and other resources now spent on health insurance toward pressing needs such as infrastructure maintenance, economic development, and preparing for climate change impacts. **Businesses** can focus on innovation and investment rather than providing health insurance to their employees. **Workers** are free to choose employment based on their interests and skills rather than being locked in a job for health insurance. **Entrepreneurs** are free to create new businesses without worrying about how they'll provide health care for themselves, their families, and their employees. With a **simpler, more efficient system**, it's more feasible to **plan for and contain costs**.

The obstacles are not economic or medical, they're political

Many studies have shown that universal health care systems can save money and increase value. A Maine Center for Economic Policy study in 2019 outlined one model for how universal health care could work in Maine, finding that the state could save more than $1 billion, most people, by far, would pay less than they do now, and everyone would be covered.

MECEP fiscal study

Questions? Thoughts? Ideas? We want to hear from you!
healthcareforallmaine@gmail.com

HealthCareforALLMaine
ADVOCATING FOR COMPREHENSIVE, HIGH-QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL MAINE PEOPLE
HealthCare for All Maine is the political and advocacy arm of Maine AllCare