



NYSNA NURSES FOR HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

Official Newsletter of NYSNA's Single Payer Healthcare Committee

Introducing the Single Payer Healthcare Committee's Newsletter "NYSNA Nurses for Healthcare for All"

After resolving to fight for Single Payer Universal Healthcare at our 2022 Convention, NYSNA nurses are ready to re-commit to expanding access to healthcare for ALL New Yorkers.

The Single Payer Healthcare Committee has created this newsletter to keep our members updated about the latest news and engage them to participate in actions and events to help win healthcare as a human right!

Let's Recommit to Fight for Single Payer Healthcare!

BY MICHELLE JONES, NP

Single Payer Universal healthcare has the potential to change healthcare in the United States by eliminating private for-profit insurance saving healthcare facilities, employers, families and taxpayers millions of dollars annually.

The ability to pay should not be the driving force behind access to quality healthcare giving rise to racial, social and healthcare disparities, and economic segregation. Despite the overwhelming evidence that single payer will be beneficial to patients, communities, care givers and our economy, many New Yorkers are opposed due to

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“The ability to pay should not be the driving force behind access to quality healthcare” -Michelle Jones, NP



misinformation. NYSNA has long been an advocate for single payer universal healthcare and understands that healthcare is a human right.

A resolution was presented and passed at the 2022 NYSNA Convention. To review the resolution, use the QR code or go to this link: bit.ly/SPHReso



Single Payer Healthcare: Myths vs. Facts

BY BILL SCHNEIDER, RN

Most studies agree – implementing a single payer healthcare system in the United States will result in overall savings. Despite the facts, misinformation about single payer persists. Let’s debunk some of the most common myths about a single-payer healthcare system.



Myth 1

- Single Payer would cost too much money, and result in increased healthcare costs.

Myth 2

- Single Payer Healthcare would destroy our ability to choose healthcare providers, force us to see a different doctor, and force us to wait a long time for necessary care.

Myth 3

- All Americans get the healthcare they need, even if they don’t have insurance.

Fact 1

- A systematic review of 22 cost studies found that 19 of these studies predicted first year savings, and all studies predicted long-term savings to the economy with a single payer system versus our current system.

Fact 2

- Ironically this is true of our current system. Unless you are very wealthy, private insurance companies dictate which providers you can see and what treatment you can get depending on who is “in” or “out” of network and what services are covered, and they require you to seek referrals or pre-approvals for certain specialists or testing adding unnecessary wait times to receiving care.

Fact 3

- The for-profit insurance & health system in the US leads to needless deaths every year. During the COVID-19 pandemic a study found that in 2020 alone, a single payer healthcare system would have prevented 212,000 needless deaths and \$106 billion dollars in pandemic related hospital costs.

Fact 3 (Continued)

- Our for-profit healthcare system also systematically discriminates against minorities, lower income Americans, and those with poor health. Studies have found that Americans with poor health, low income, and minority backgrounds are a staggering 68% less likely to have health insurance than high income white Americans.

Healthcare is a human right, and it's our right as Americans to live a long and healthy life – no matter our class, race, or gender. Universal, single-payer healthcare can address the systemic disparities we face in American healthcare, while lowering cost and making access available for all.

Nurses need to stand up and fight for our patients and that means fighting for single-payer healthcare.



Nysna President Nancy Hagans, RN, BSN, CCRN and Single Payer Committee Chair Margaret Franks, RN at New York Health Act Re-Launch Rally alongside bill-sponsors, State Senator Gustavo Rivera, Assembly woman Linda Rosenthal and MRNY allies.

“Polls indicate that more and more people support a fundamental change to the current system” -Judy Gonzalez, RN

A Brief History of Single Payer

BY JUDY GONZALEZ, RN

A Single Payer health care system was conceptualized in the US and around the world well before most of us were born. After WWII, nearly all of Europe and developed nations, in conjunction with their labor unions, developed single payer systems; some nationally in a variety of formations (eg: England, France), and others gradually through states and provinces (eg: Canada). The US only did

so through its Veterans Administration (VA) system which is the true form of socialized medicine. Polls indicate that more and more people support a fundamental change to the current system but the health insurance industry, pharmaceutical companies, and politicians who receive their donations have generated false narratives around such a system, influencing public opinion, against our communities' best interests.

Passing the New York Health Act, which NYSNA has helped popularize through consistent organizing, would be beneficial to all New Yorkers and help propel the movement nationally, along with the other states engaged in the same process.





Why Single Payer is Important for Healthcare Workers

BY TONIA BAZEL, RN

My name is Tonia Bazel, RN, I work at Albany Medical Center's Infectious Disease Unit and I introduced the single-payer resolution at the 2022 convention on behalf of the NYSNA single-payer committee.

I have cared for a multitude of patients who don't go to the doctor or clinic when they are ill because they are under-insured or not insured at all, and I have been there myself. I've had to choose between feeding and keeping a safe roof over my family's head and paying for co-pays and deductibles for doctor visits and my diabetic medication. I went without medical care for five years because of cost concerns. By the end of that time period my blood sugar was dangerously high and my vision had been compromised.

I had to file bankruptcy in order not to lose my home because of mounting medical bills, while on short-term disability for having had two different surgical interventions on my back, consequences of my choice to be a nurse. Bankruptcy had a long-term impact on my credit.

Low-income individuals and families are unable to get preventative care under our current system. I've had patients leave the hospital stating they can't afford their stay because insurance won't cover it. I have family members who have lost limbs or have died much too soon because they couldn't afford medical care or because they were among those who fall through the fissures in our current healthcare system.

The least our country and the state of New York should offer working people is affordable healthcare for their contribution our prosperity. A universal, single-payer system is the single biggest step we can take in that direction.

"I've had to choose between feeding and keeping a safe roof over my family's head and paying co-pays and deductibles for doctor visits and my diabetic medication."

-Tonia Bazel, RN





Celebrating our Accomplishments in the Long Road to Single Payer Healthcare in New York

While we still have a lot of work to do to make Single Payer a reality in New York State through the passage of the New York Health Act (NYHA), NYSNA has been working hard to achieve our goal. Here is a summary of our most recent work and achievements:

- NYSNA designed a Continuing Education (CE) program to educate our members about Single Payer Healthcare, and our role as nurse advocates
- Attended the 'Labor for Single Payer' convening in Baltimore in Spring 2023
- At lobby day in May 2023, we lobbied our legislators about the importance of HC reform and establishing a system of guaranteed healthcare for all
- The NYSNA-supported advocacy organization, the Campaign for New York Health (CNYH), hired a new Executive Director who met with the NYSNA single-payer committee and is excited to continue strengthening the coalition
- We were part of the NNU Medicare for All relaunch in Washington, DC with Medicare for All champion, US Senator Bernie Sanders
- We participated in the CNYH daylong strategy convening with the new Executive Director and several coalition partners





Celebrating our Accomplishments (continued)

- We sponsored a successful fundraiser with the CNYH to support the grassroots and legislative statewide effort to pass the NYHA
- NYSNA and the CNYH held a successful press event with legislators and labor allies like CIR/SEIU to reintroduce the new bill in July 2023
- We marched and flyered at the Pride and Labor Day parades where NYSNA members spoke to other rank-and-file union members about the NYHA
- We launched our newsletter – which will be a way to educate, spread the word, and bring our members into the movement.



NYSNA's Single Payer Healthcare Committee

- Margaret Franks, RN Chair
- Tonia Bazel, RN Secretary
- Vicki Davis-Courson, RN
- Denise Griffin, RN
- Nancy Hagans, RN, BSN, CCRN
NYSNA President
- Michelle Jones, NP
- Mary Madden, NP
- Peter Pacheco, RN
- Bill Schneider, RN
- Judy Sheridan-Gonzalez, RN
- Marva Wade, RN

**Want to help us achieve even more?
GET INVOLVED!**

Email us at: healthjustice4all@nysna.org Or visit our website to learn more about upcoming events: bit.ly/NYSNAsinglepayer

