

To Chair Monnes-Anderson and Committee Members:

Recent debates have clearly demonstrated the importance of implementing a government-led single payer healthcare system. Despite voluminous protestations from healthcare industries about how doing so would somehow render them unable to provide care for millions of needy Americans, the basic facts are that not only have such systems been successfully implemented in comparable nations around the world, but we have clearly seen that the current approach does not work. This not only calls into question why we willingly sacrifice the well-being of so many for the profit of a few, but what underlying statement of principles we're willing to make and live. To put it another way, there are two basic questions, whether we believe it morally appropriate and acceptable for individuals to profit off the illness of others, and whether we truly believe that all people have the right to receive medical treatment, regardless of age, race, gender, socioeconomic status, or any other qualifier. The former is a personal question posed to those voting, but the latter is one that has been clearly answered every single day, as millions of Americans die every year from preventable illnesses, while countless more harms could be ameliorated with basic preventative and low-level treatment before they spiral into ongoing and serious ailments, all while a small cadre reap financial gains. It can be easy to fall prey to the charming rhetoric and deep pockets of health insurers, but the real-world implications of their rule have been made clear, and the choice between ensuring healthcare for all Americans and continuing to enable suffering is truly that simple.

Thank you for your time,

Peter Drummond