Primary Care and Single-Payer

Key Points, and Additional Resources

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Primary Care Makes a Difference:

A strong primary care system leads to a strong healthcare system and it is no coincidence that countries with universal healthcare have much stronger primary care systems than the US. By choosing a Single-Payer universal healthcare system we can finally generate the funds needed to invest in the primary care infrastructure our patients and communities deserve.

Key Features of Single-Payer relevant to Primary Care:

- Single-Payer will help address the primary care doctor and nursing crisis. Because it is able to generate substantial savings by cutting administrative costs and investing in preventive care, Single-Payer creates a pool of resources that can be reinvested in infrastructure to address primary care work-force shortages.

- Single-Payer would end uncompensated medical care by guaranteeing everyone access to a payer. Clinics and physicians would no longer need to argue with insurance companies for timely, adequate compensation.

- Single-Payer will eliminate the role of insurance companies in making healthcare decisions. No longer will physicians need to seek approval for tests or waste time figuring out what treatment options and pharmaceuticals are covered for each patient. Decision making will be returned to healthcare providers and their patients.

- Universal coverage would increase continuity of care. Patients will no longer be forced to join another medical group or hospitals when they switch jobs or their employers switch providers. This allows for better, long-lasting relationships between patients and their healthcare providers which is good for both patient satisfaction and safety.

- Single-Payer guarantees universal, continuous, access to affordable, sustainable, and high quality care. Patients have full choice of physicians, clinics, and hospitals in a system that saves them money and invests in robust preventive and primary care.

Sources and Additional resources:

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2. AZA Consulting. 2002. "Analysis of Coverage Reforms." *California Health Care Options Project.*
3. Institute of Medicine. 2004. *Insuring America's Health – Principles and Recommendations.* National Academy of Sciences.
4. Geyman. 2008. *Do Not Resuscitate – Why the health insurance industry is dying and how we must replace it.*
5. http://www.pnhp.org/facts/single_payer_resources.php

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