



MEDICARE FOR ALL!

Nurses' Campaign to Win Medicare for All Frequently Asked Questions:

Why not implement a public option instead?

A common misconception is that a public option could get us to universal healthcare easier and quicker than trying to pass Medicare for All outright. In reality, a public option will not be any easier to pass than Medicare for All and it won't fix our broken healthcare system.

- **The insurance and drug industries will fight against a public option as aggressively as they would fight against Medicare for All, as they have proven in prior efforts to pass reforms.** The Partnership for America's Healthcare Future, a conglomerate of insurance and drug companies formed to oppose universal healthcare, state on their [own website](#) that to them, a public option is just as unacceptable as Medicare for All. These industries have proven that they will stop at nothing to block even small reforms. A coalition of drug companies [spent over 100 million](#) in 2016 to kill Proposition 61 in California, a ballot initiative that would have controlled prescription drug prices. If they're willing to spend that much to kill *one cost control over one sector of healthcare in only one state in the country*, they will spend much more to kill any substantial national reform.
- **A public option won't fix our system.** A [2013 CBO study](#) predicted that a public option would have minimal effect on the number of uninsured because any increase in the number of people with coverage through a public option would be offset by a reduction in the number of people who get coverage through their employer. In addition, a public option won't reduce administrative costs, lower the price of drugs, end underinsurance, or otherwise solve the host of problems in our current system.
- **A public option could cost even more for patients than private insurance.** Private insurance companies [aggressively avoid](#) sicker, costlier patients. They use unethical practices such as narrow networks, tiered cost-sharing requirements, and selective advertising, to exclude expensive patients. These practices would push sicker, more costly patients into the public option resulting in higher costs for patients.

Join the Nurses' Campaign to Win Medicare for All! www.medicare4all.org