



Good news from our friends at Public Citizen

A Publicly Funded, Universal Health Care System Would Be a Boon to U.S. Businesses, Public Citizen Report Says

New System Would Boost Economy, Reduce Costs and Eliminate Unfair Burdens on Companies That Provide Health Insurance Benefits

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Contact: Angela Bradbery (202) 588-7741

Karilyn Gower (202) 588-7779

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A publicly funded, universal health care system would aid businesses by engendering a more dynamic economy, taming costs and freeing businesses that provide health insurance of the costs of administering benefits and subsidizing the nation’s health care, a [Public Citizen report released today](#) concludes.

“Small businesses have rated the cost of health insurance as their top concern for a quarter century, and large businesses struggle with health care obligations that their international competitors do not have to worry about,” said Taylor Lincoln, research director of Public Citizen’s Congress Watch division and author of the report. “If it weren’t for entrenched partisan alliances, business leaders would have demanded that Congress relieve them of health care burdens long ago.”

Publicly funded universal health care systems – such as the Canadian “single-payer” system, in which the government pays for all covered services – exist in nearly every developed country in the world. In the United States, universal care systems could be implemented either at the federal or state levels. The Affordable Care Act of 2010 includes language permitting states to apply for waivers that would enable them to institute universal care systems beginning in 2017. Vermont has passed legislation declaring an intention to do just that.

Public Citizen’s report, “Severing the Tie That Binds,” outlines three ways a universal health care system would benefit businesses.

First, it would end “job lock” and other economic distortions stemming from our health care financing system that hinder the freedom of individuals to pursue new ventures.

Second, a universal care system would significantly dampen future increases to health care costs – and perhaps reduce costs – even as it greatly increased access to care.

Third, although a publicly funded, universal care system would likely rely on significant revenue from businesses (such as through a payroll tax), there is reason to believe that total health care-related costs for businesses now providing benefits would decline, in part because a new system would spread costs more fairly.

[View the full release.](#)

[Read the report.](#)

Cindy Young

Campaign Coordinator

Campaign for a Healthy California

phone: 530 867-2591

fax: 916-466-3881

email: info@HealthyCaliforniaCampaign.org

web: www.HealthyCaliforniaCampaign.org

