

# Medicare For All: To Be or Not To Be?

Maya Rockey Moore Cummings, Ph.D.  
President & CEO, Global Policy Solutions



# THE U.S. HAS NO HEALTHCARE “SYSTEM”

- Healthcare in the U.S. is an ad hoc patchwork of insurance companies, healthcare providers, and government programs strung together by service agreements and government laws, rules, and regulations.
- The end result is highly ineffective and inefficient.
- Every year, the inefficiencies of this arrangement needlessly cause millions of people to forgo healthcare due to inability to pay and thousands of people to die prematurely due to insufficient access to quality care.
- We can and should do better for the people.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF A NATIONAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

A Well-Designed Universal National Healthcare System Should be the Goal

- A social insurance, single-payer base
- Universal, auto-enroll (coverage for every human being over a lifetime)
- Patient-centered
- Prevention-oriented
- Evidence-based (the science of medical interventions)
- Data-driven (broad use of data analytics)
- Quality-assured (measured on desired outcomes)
- Affordable (according to ability to pay)
- Inclusive of mental, behavioral, reproductive, and long-term care
- Prescription and biologic drug coverage
- Integrated payment and patient information systems across medical and community-based providers
- Equitable (structure that serves everyone regardless of income, geography, gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity while still being responsive to unique population health and geographical needs)

# Is Medicare For All the Answer?

## **MAYBE!**

### **PROS**

- Social insurance based
- Single payer
- Affordable
- Automatic enrollment
- Lifetime coverage

### **CONS**

- Payment oriented, not patient oriented
- Not geared toward prevention
- More attention to quality, data and evidence
- No coverage for non-citizens
- Little attention to equity

## Who Will It Help?

- People of all backgrounds and in all locations
- Families
- Low income
- Middle income
- Small businesses
- Large businesses
- Hospitals and other providers
- GDP
- The nation

# Who Will It Hurt?

- **INSURANCE COMPANIES**
- **THOSE WHO HOLD INSURANCE COMPANY STOCK**
- **POSSIBLY OTHERS, DEPENDING ON DESIGN**