

# What in the world is “Single-Payer”

# Health Care

Whether you are  
for it, against it,  
or undecided...

You should know  
what is

**Truth and  
Myth!**

Turn the page to find out!

Brought to you by the  
**Interfaith Health Care Coalition**  
A community-wide working group of the  
Greater Rochester Community of Churches.

We advocate for a more equitable health care system in  
Rochester, in New York State and in the United States.

For more information or to get involved,  
phone Marie Gibson at 585-254-2570



## Medicare for All

This term means the same as single-payer health care.

Myth?	Answer	Truth
Universal health care is socialized medicine.	FALSE	Medicare is a single-payer system in which the government pays for care delivered in the private sector. Medicare allows for choice of doctors and hospitals.
Our current Medicare program covers everyone.	FALSE	Only people over 65 and younger people with disabilities are covered.

## Single-Payer Health Care

Single-payer systems pay private doctors and hospitals to deliver care.

The single-payer system must be governmental.	FALSE	Single-payer could be quasi-public or even private, but to be efficient, it must be one payer and not a competing confusion of multiple insurance companies.
Pharmaceutical companies need to recover huge costs for research into new drugs.	FALSE	They spend only about 13% of their budgets on research. Most research is funded by tax dollars distributed by the National Institutes of Health.

## Failures of the Current System

47 Million Americans are uninsured. 50 to 60 MILLION more Americans have inadequate insurance.

People die because they lack access to care.	TRUE	Being uninsured resulted in an estimated 22,000 avoidable deaths in 2006. 60% of the uninsured go without needed care.
Most Americans without health insurance are just too lazy to work.	FALSE	Eight out of 10 people who are uninsured are in working families.
The USA does not ration health care.	FALSE	As a society, we do ration health care by income. Being uninsured amounts to rationing of care.
The average cost of insurance premiums has remained steady. Private insurance is affordable.	FALSE	Premiums have increased 78% in the past 6 years. Currently premiums cost more than \$11,000 for a family of four.

## Should We Change?

We already have the resources we need to make changes.	TRUE	Federal and state governments currently pay enough to cover the entire US population, according to testimony of the Congressional Budget Office and the General Accounting Office.
There is a much more efficient way to provide care.	TRUE	The US could save \$350 billion per year on administrative costs if we covered the US population with a single-payer health plan, according to estimates published in the New England Journal of Medicine.
In Canada, long waiting times for care prove this system doesn't work.	FALSE	Severe funding cuts caused queues for elective surgery; this is being addressed. No delays EVER existed for emergency care.
Most Canadian patients and physicians like their system.	TRUE	Over 90 percent of Canadians believe that no one should be denied health care simply because they don't have money.
Health care access is a basic right in the US.	FALSE	It is a market commodity controlled by insurance companies.
Forcing individuals to buy health insurance from private companies will solve the health care crisis.	FALSE	Private insurance companies would still dictate type and quantity of care.