



HEALTH CARE FOR ALL  
**WASHINGTON**

# The Path to Universal Single-Payer Healthcare

in Washington State

**481,600**

Washingtonians  
without coverage (2023)

**25%**

of US physicians currently  
considering leaving due to  
moral distress (PNHP  
2026)

**\$14,885**

US per-capita health  
spend — highest of  
any nation

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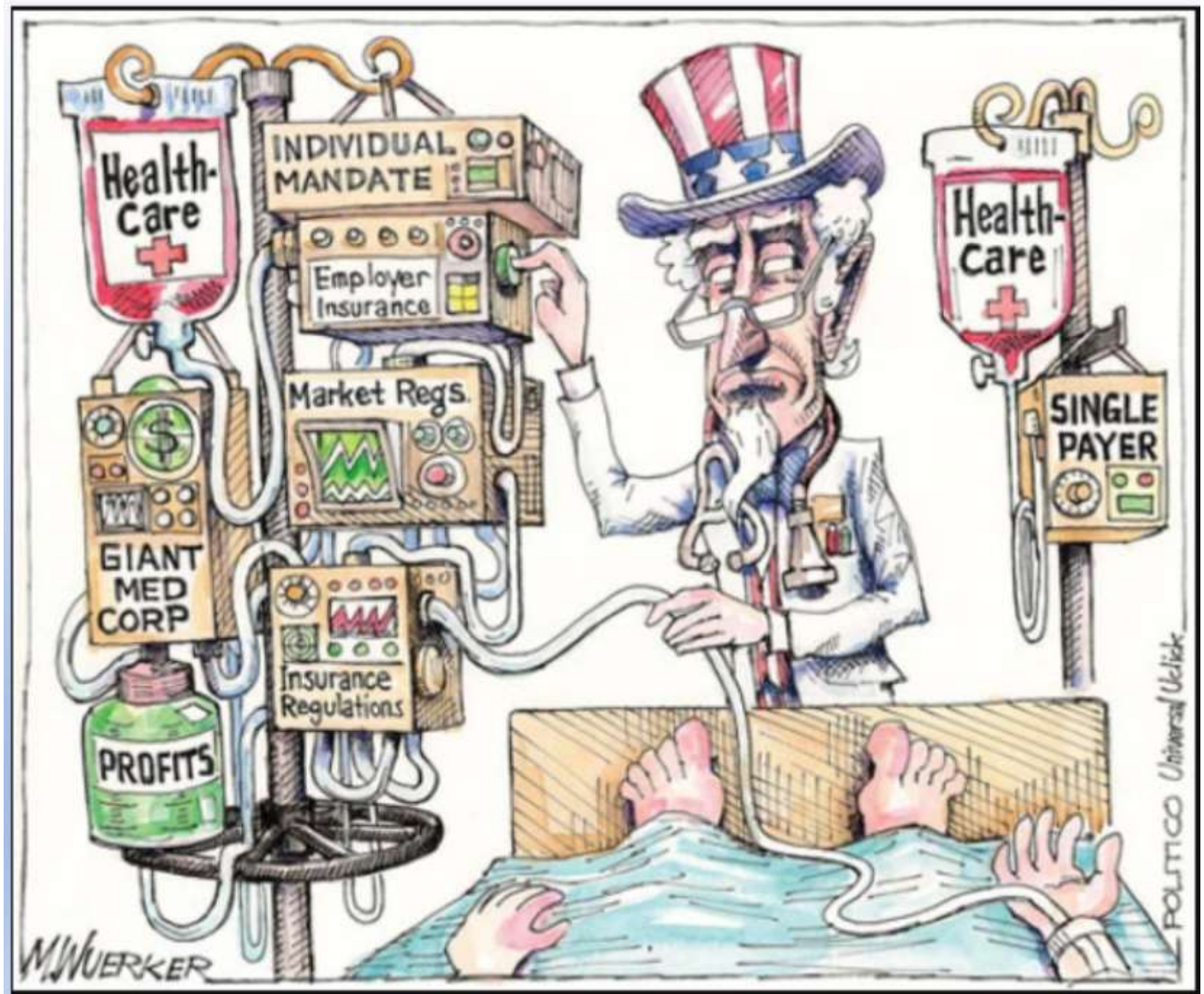
**Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhuman.**

*— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
Address to the Medical Committee  
for Human Rights, Chicago, 1966*



**Sixty years later, Washington State still has no universal healthcare. That ends with us.**

Why is health care in the US so expensive?





# The Global Reality: The U.S. Pays the Most — And Gets the Least

The U.S. spends nearly twice as much per person as peer nations — yet trails on nearly every health outcome measure.

## U.S. vs. Peer Nation Average

Metric	U.S.	Peer Avg.	Gap
Life Expectancy (2023)	78.4 yrs	82.5 yrs	-4.1 years
Maternal Mortality (per 100K births, 2023)	18.6	5.1	3.6× higher
GP Physicians (per 1,000 pop., 2022)	0.6	1.3	53% fewer
ER Use for Non-Urgent Care (2023)	16%	11%	45% more

Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker, Oct. 2025 • healthsystemtracker.org

## Per-Capita Health Spend (2023)



United States \$13,432



Switzerland \$9,932



Peer Avg. (~½ of U.S.) ~\$6,700\*

\*Approximated: U.S. spends “nearly twice as much per capita” (KFF, 2025)

**“The U.S. health system performs worse on more indicators than it does better.”**

— Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker, 2025

The U.S. spends \$3,500+ more per year per person than 2nd-place Switzerland — yet has a 4.1-year shorter life expectancy and maternal mortality 3.6× higher.

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**Imagine going to your doctor  
without checking your bank account first.**

Imagine every Washingtonian getting the preventive care they've been putting off.

Imagine health care that doesn't depend on where or whether you are employed

Imagine a doctor who can simply practice medicine — without an insurance company second-guessing every decision.

**This isn't a fantasy. It's how healthcare works  
*in every other wealthy nation on Earth.***

# Washington Health Security Trust (WHST) Principles We're Championing in WA's Universal Health Care (UHC) System Design



**Universal  
Coverage**



**Comprehensive  
Benefits**



**Free  
Provider Choice**



**Health  
Equity**



**Cost  
Control**



**Democratic  
Governance**

# Our Momentum: 30 Years of Showing Up

*They said it couldn't be done. They were wrong.*



## Universal Health Care Commission (UHCC)

Created 2021 — 5 of the 6 citizen members appointed by the Governor were recommended by HCFA-WA

# HCFA-WA Legislative Wins

- ✓ Prescription drug price control laws passed
- ✓ Reduced insulin costs for Washingtonians
- ✓ Increased immigrant healthcare funding
- ✓ Increased transparency requirements for insurers
- ✓ UHCC created and funded with HCFA leadership
- ✓ Senate Joint Memorial 8004 supported (2024)
- ✓ Medicaid auto-enrollment studies funded

# Working in Coalition

- ✓ UHCC Advocacy Roundtable launched (Aug 2025)
- ✓ Member: One Payer States (20+ state coalition)
- ✓ Member: Health Care is a Human Right WA (since 2013)
- ✓ Physicians for a National Health Program-WA

# 2026 Legislative Successes

**The Universal Health Care Commission (UHCC)** In this difficult budget year, we ensured that funding levels achieved in 2025 were maintained for the Universal Health Care Commission and for the design of an auto enrollment process for those who lose Medicaid and qualify for Health Benefit Exchange plans.

- **HB 2548 – Strengthening health care market standards.**
- **SB 5845 - Modernizing and clarifying timely payment requirements for health carriers.**
- **SB 5395 Making improvements to transparency and accountability in the prior authorization determination process.**
- **SB 6103 Making payments for services provided by a rural emergency hospital subject to appropriation.**

# Even More 2026 Legislative Successes

- **HB 2242** Preserving access to preventive services.
- **SB 5981** Protecting the integrity of the 340B drug pricing program.
- **SB 6182** - Establishing an abortion savings program.
- **SB 5917** Improving access to abortion medications.
- **SB 6346** - Establishing a tax on millionaires.
- **SJM8002** - Concerning original Medicare costs and choice.

# Washington's Pathway to Universal Health Care: Strategy and Potential Timeline

**Shape UHCC's  
UHC Design**



**Advance UHC  
Legislation**



**Secure Federal  
Buy-In**



**Implementation**

# The Pathway to Universal Health Care: Strategy & Potential Timeline

**NOW  
2026**

## Shape UHCC's UHC Design

- Grow HCFA-WA membership & allied coalitions
- Influence UHCC & FTAC: adopt WHST principles
- Attend open meetings; submit oral public comment
- Send written comments between UHCC meetings
- Publish UHCC recaps in e-bulletins & website

**2027  
Legislative Session**

## Advance UHC Legislation

- File legislation based on UHCC's UHC design
- Coalition: labor, health, equity orgs
- Employer community outreach
- Media and public mobilization
- UHCC report as legislative foundation

**2027–2028  
Federal Waivers**

## Secure Federal Buy-In

- File Medicaid 1115 waiver
- File Medicare Section 1332 waiver
- Advocate for the State Based Universal Health Care Act (SBUHCA) and its streamlined waiver process
- Coordinate with other Single Payer states
- Maintain 95%+ coverage threshold

**2029+  
Ramp-Up**

## Implementation

- Transition displaced workers
- Launch WA universal health care enrollment
- Integrate Apple Health + ACA plans
- Establish Trust governance board
- Monitor equity and access outcomes



**Federal Key: State-Based Universal Health Care Act (SBUHCA) — one application, one office, no sunset if WA maintains 95% coverage, benefit parity, and no increase to federal deficit.**

# EVERYBODY IN • NOBODY OUT

## Join the Movement — Here's How You Help



### Join HCFA-WA

Become a member. Attend monthly meetings. Bring your neighbors.



### Influence the UHCC

Attend open UHCC & Finance TAC meetings. Speak at public comment. Bring your story.



### Tell Your Story

Personal healthcare experiences move votes. Share at town halls, op-eds, social media.



### Educate Your Community

Host house parties. Show this presentation. Build local understanding & urgency.



### Write & Share Comments

Send written comments between meetings. Read UHCC recaps in our e-bulletin & website tab.



### Donate & Fundraise

HCFA-WA is a nonprofit. Sustaining donors fuel our 30+ year advocacy work.

# Volunteer with HCFA-WA!



## Speaking & Organizing

- Table at local markets & events
- Participate in community actions such as parades and demonstrations
- Organize speaking events at your legislative district, local business, or club
- Build and strengthen relationships across state and party lines



## Policy

- Advocate for legislation that builds the foundation for universal health care in Washington state
- Meet with your legislators about our policy priorities
- Monitor and participate in the [Universal Health Care Commission](#) (UHCC) and its [Finance Technical Advisory Committee](#) (FTAC)

# Volunteer with HCFA-WA!



## Communications

- Prepare/update/edit our flyers and presentation materials
- Contribute to media: Facebook, Press, local publications, blogs etc
- Compose/select text, graphics, material for website and other outlets
- Create video projects



## Fundraising & Development

- Plan events – from house parties to larger local events
- Help with events: publicity, greeting, food, discussion with guests

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**“It is a travesty when 85 million people are uninsured or underinsured and millions more are drowning in medical debt in the richest nation on Earth. We don’t suffer from scarcity in America, we suffer from greed.”**

*— Rep. Pramila Jayapal, 2025*

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