

Medicare or Coronavirus-for-All



The coronavirus doesn't care how wealthy you are or what political party you are in. The best way to be sure the person next to you isn't sick is to **make health care available to everyone.** As the coronavirus pandemic spreads, it is in every individual's interest to know that all people have access to preventive and diagnostic care, as well as treatment if needed. You don't want to come down with COVID-19 because a person you were next to in some public setting couldn't afford a deductible or co-pay, didn't have paid sick leave or is among the 37 million in the U.S. who completely lack health insurance.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo issued a directive requiring New York health insurers to waive cost-sharing for coronavirus tests and related emergency room, urgent care and office visits — for those who already have insurance. *“Containing this virus depends on us having the facts about who has it,”* Gov. Cuomo said. *“These measures will break down any barriers that could prevent New Yorkers from getting tested.”* **But what about those who are uninsured?**

At Monday's briefing, Pence had pledged daily updates and full transparency. At Tuesday's briefing, the White House inexplicably banned video and audio recording. At the end of Wednesday's briefing, with cameras once again allowed, Pence gave a press briefing flanked by senior public health officials. As Pence exited, and this exchange took place:

Reporter: *Can you give guidance for the uninsured? Can the uninsured get tested? Gentlemen, ladies, can the uninsured get tested?* Katie Waldman Miller, Pence's press secretary: **Scream into the camera, it ain't going to get you anywhere.** Katie Waldman added Miller to her name when she married Trump's anti-immigrant senior adviser Stephen Miller three weeks ago.

The popular Medicare program, instituted in 1965, provides no-cost medical care for those 65 and older. Medicare for All would simply drop the eligibility age from 65 to zero, covering all Americans from birth. Our current health care system of private and nonprofit hospitals and doctors' offices would remain in place. Payments, however, would be made by the U.S. government (the “single payer”), **replacing the for-profit health insurance corporations,** which would essentially be put out of business. In Sen. Bernie Sanders' Medicare for All bill, taxes would go up on middle class and the wealthy, but onerous **insurance premiums, deductibles, co-pays and out-of-network expenses would go away. Health care costs would go down more than taxes would go up,** except for the very wealthy.

Most of Medicare for All's costs would be covered by eliminating the **bloated overhead, profit-taking and multimillion dollar executive salaries** of the health insurance industry. More savings would come from negotiating lower prescription drug prices, which Medicare is currently prevented from doing by law. Additional costs to society would be lowered or eliminated, such as the expense incurred by millions of uninsured people who resort to **emergency room visits** that could have been avoided with preventive care and annual doctor visits.

At New York City's major airports, workers like Vladimir Clairjeune a passenger service representative at JFK airport, are represented by SEIU 32BJ. Wheelchair attendants, security, cleaners and passenger service representatives are demanding state government action to improve their health care plans, which currently **make health care unaffordable** with high premiums and deductibles. “My co-workers make impossible choices daily because a lot of us don't have access to affordable health insurance,” Vladimir Clairjeune said at a training session, learning to deal with the coronavirus/COVID-19 epidemic. “

In 2018, Trump disbanded the White House's pandemic response team and slashed Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funds for assisting other countries, including China, with epidemic prevention. A healthy populace with regular access to affordable health care is the best defense against an epidemic like we now face. It's Medicare-for-All or Coronavirus-for-All.

Thanks to **Amy Goodman**

BIDEN OUR TIME At The Edge of the Apocalypse

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Why would the USofA, with its 800 military bases in 160 countries, and its global dollar dictatorship, submit to a threatened *legal* change when we always depend on Money and the Military to prevent effective change. The USofA is the Fountainhead of Money and the Military after all. To maintain total domination of working people and the poor it ceaselessly burns off money in Military Potlatches of Endless War or pours it down the Black Holes of Billionaire bank accounts. Anything to prevent a life of dignity for people who must be kept in endless fear of bankruptcy, homelessness, criminalization.

And the Middle Classes will accept, as they did in Chile, 15 years of a Trumpochet to stave off any improvement in the lives of others that even vaguely threatens theirs. The election in my own Supervisor District is an example of this Middle Class ruthlessness - the handmaiden of fascism historically - where upstanding members of our little elite write effusive letters-to-the-editor touting the Experience of the Incumbent while baldly ignoring the misery and damage and ruin visited upon near neighbors and even family members - in the hundreds - by policies she supported. **These Well-To-Do are worse off really than the 1 percenters because their studied lack of empathy is ultimately self-destructive.** And this time they don't have 15 years in order to wake up.

The only way out is a revolutionary upheaval - what I call *By All Means Necessary*. **Everyone must pull together in solidarity for a true Commons.** My model here is the Palestinian Resistance, a resistance that cannot quit because genocide is the enemy's aim and so The Resistance returns again and again to face the rain of Israeli snipers' bullets. I think Gandhi envisioned a resistance that was persistent like this when he told the Jews in Germany to resist the Germans nonviolently. And like MLK using children to face the dogs of Bull Connor, *everyone* must participate. Not *by any means necessary* where the bottom line is the gun and excludes the unarmed. Mao said political power comes from the barrel of a gun, but Gandhi's response has to be, “Which End?”

Indeed the Palestinians are having to teach the lesson of *By All Means Necessary* to the Jews who abandoned their founding Socialism and instead succumbed to the virulent European disease of Nationalism. The Palestinians know instinctively, as any indigenous people know, that all-out violent resistance is futile in the face of an enemy - with absolute superiority of weaponry - bent on genocide. What is needed - here there and everywhere - is Persistent Civil Resistance that seizes the initiative from the militants, where the violent impulses of young men and armed men are not entirely suppressed yet are not allowed to distract the struggle from the fundamental aim of freedom from the oppressors, especially when those oppressors come from the Revolution itself.

Here in the USofA, we cannot abandon the power of our righteous indignation and replace it with murderous hate. But we cannot quit in the face of the life or death struggle with a State Power of Money and Military whose intentions are irrationally, yet intentionally, Apocalyptic. Wish us luck.

Paul Encimer

Next time: How to unite MLK's Poor Peoples Movement with the Extinction Rebellion, the Antifa, a WorkersPolitical Party, some self-sustaining cooperative institutions and an Unconditional Love for the Planet and our place as a species within it. (Is it always Next Time?)

Hindsight 2020: BERNIE BRO

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I am a proud “Bernie Bro” because I am a feminist /environmentalist (for me it is but a different manifestation of the same) without equal rights under the law, still. I also know well of the legal issues surrounding this destructive legal system, which alleges corporations are people and therefore mother earth has no rights and neither do her communities of people who try to protect her. If aspiring to see our species (and others) survive is radical, well you can call me a radical. I prefer progressive.

I am a proud “Bernie Bro” because I am friends with the most wonderful prisoners who are victimized by the criminalization injustice institution and have been for their entire lives because of the color of their skin, corrupt policies, three strikes laws, enduring solitary confinement and more. This for profit prison system has to stop.

I am a proud “Bernie Bro” because I am a friend to several teachers who, even with graduate degrees, do not make livable wages doing some of the most important work shaping society and serving our children with a quality education.

I am a proud “Bernie Bro” because I am a student debt victim, wracking up interest daily that will exceed the original loan amount any day now for a largely questionable education, by underpaid teachers and I have no quality jobs waiting for me to pay the debt off with.

I am a proud “Bernie Bro” because I am a victim of medical insurance companies and medical debt resulting from an accident when I was 19 years old that was the fault of an uninsured driver (she had 4 kids and borrowed her mothers car so it's not like anyone could logically blame her). This medical debt I wracked up in intensive care, not only cost me the normal use of my foot, the pain of arthritis for the rest of my life, but I had to deal with so many headaches just trying to get basic treatment to hope to walk again. This medical debt also means I essentially cannot obtain credit for a car, a home/land etc. and renting is even a challenge.

I am a Proud “Bernie Bro” because I live in a rural community with little if any access to basic things like dentists, therapists and doctors especially those who are qualified or available or covered by Medical in a timely manner. I face sickening walls of medical insurance bureaucracy each time I try to see a doctor when I am ill. It makes any illness worse just trying to wade through this health-preventing, imbalance-inducing system. Luckily I have alternative medicine modalities but many do not.

I am a proud “Bernie Bro” because I worked in the subprime mortgage industry and witnessed the unfolding of banker's corruption and greed, seizing immense wealth from the people.

I am a proud “Bernie Bro” because I am a small organic farmer disenfranchised by regulations and war. I wrote Bernie a letter about it recently. Immediately and shockingly he not only read it but also reworked his policy's to reflect my suggestions, expunging records, and giving those disenfranchised by the drug war a seat at the legal table. No other candidate would have even looked at my letter, let alone beefed up their policies.

I am a proud “Bernie Bro” because I am a millennial, who has lost too many friends, including veterans to substance abuse, jail and/or suicide. Suicide and overdoses are some of the top causes of death for my generation and younger. I know how backwards the criminal justice institution is, the war on drugs, how we treat veterans and the poor. I know how the government handles substance issues is completely ineffective and inconsistent with the science. We are criminalizing people who have suffered, are suffering and need help, which only makes things worse.

I am a proud “Bernie Bro” because I am close with a family from Afghanistan (now Pakistan where they were forced to flee) who often shares their horrifying experiences with me resulting from the longest war in American history. Since I befriended them a few years ago, 3 have died in this single family alone as a result of US policies and ongoing war.

I am also a proud “Bernie Bro” because I know firsthand about violence against women, systemic and otherwise. I was the victim of domestic violence who was subsequently made homeless in a single night, while suffering serious injuries and no sense of safety. Contrary to more popular propaganda I had no “boot straps” to “pull up” I lost everything and was totally immobile. There are virtually no safety nets for women who endure violence and it can land them on the streets and often costs them their lives. I am one of the lucky ones alive to speak up about it and so I must.

I am a proud “Bernie Bro” because I am a passionate, hardworking woman eager to make a livable wage doing something that doesn't harm people or the planet. As a woman (aside from a handful of exceptions) my typical professional options are entirely undervalued in this capitalist system (care work, service, teaching, assisting others in any capacity etc.) and there are always those options that turn women into property for those who are willing. When women are lucky and able to shatter that glass ceiling, we get the privilege of making a fraction of what men make doing the same jobs.

I am a proud “Bernie Bro” because I am the daughter of a single teenage mother who grew up in total poverty in the richest country in the world, that also has one of the lowest social mobility rates. This means that if you are born poor you will more than likely stay poor for your entire life. Hence the rEvolution that is upon us. Twentyfive percent of children are homeless in this country.

So yeah, of course I am a #ProudBernieBro because just like the million others like me we have experienced firsthand just how inhumane and unnecessarily destructive this establishment is. I am far from unique and that is what is scary, these experiences are the new norm. My generation and those coming are completely disenfranchised by this establishment, victimized by violence/capitalism in varying forms. Bernie not only has humane solutions to all of these issues, he understands the basic principles of justice underlying them all.

If you have traveled around the world like I have you too are well aware of the vastly better options available for social organization. We can and will do better for all, but only with Bernie leading this movement today and not just for the benefit of America but the entire world. That is incredibly important too because not only are these issues connected, but WE ARE ALL CONNECTED. Power to The People!

As a woman it's important to point out that I would love to see a female president (like Lani Guinier, AOC, Rashida Tlaib, Angela Davis, etc.) and believe I will very soon. BUT your gender is irrelevant to your ability to form policies that resolve issues of racial, economic and gender inequality. Where your funding comes from matters much more because one is always beholden to their donor's interests. This is why no other candidate is of interest to many Bernie supporters and equally why Biden is such a dangerous choice. Bernie is the only candidate for president EVER who has not taken corporate money but small donations from individual donors (like me) in the millions. He raised 45 million in February alone while trump raised 85 million. Sure we are the underdog at an average \$18 per donation, that's to be expected, but that is really incredible when you think of the billionaires and their establishment that we are up against. That is how much people believe in Bernie.

You cannot say this for Biden who would obviously only offer us a replay of the 2016 election. Hindsight is 2020 as they say, lets not make the same mistake again. Before you take the alleged “safe bet” please reconsider making the only safe and sustainable bet to insure our species (and others) survive and can dream to finally thrive. Come on elders and non-voters throughout the land, it's time to see this rEvolution to fruition!



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