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December 17, 2018

The Honorable Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal
319 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Jayapal:

We write to you as longtime advocates for National Improved Medicare for All as embodied in the current version of HR 676. We have championed HR 676 for the past fifteen years, working with Congressman John Conyers and his staff.

We have a deep appreciation for your willingness to not only take on the lead sponsorship of HR 676 but also to create a Medicare for All Caucus. We believe we share a common vision of a national, universal, publicly-funded, comprehensive and high-quality healthcare system in the United States.

We understand that you are rewriting HR 676 before you introduce it in 2019. It is important to us that HR 676 not be weakened in this process but be made stronger. We ask that you release a draft of the text of the revised HR 676 so that longtime single payer advocates can read it and share our views with you before the bill is introduced.

Transparency matters greatly to us as does getting the policy right. HR 676 must be strong from the outset so that as it goes through the legislative process, we can be sure the final bill will solve the healthcare crisis in the United States.

We know you have met with representatives of some groups. Opening the process up will ensure that the best information on expanded and improved Medicare for all is contained in the bill. And, it will ensure that the whole single payer movement is in support of the bill.

Some of your public statements recently have caused concern; in particular, statements made about your desire to align the text with the Senate bill, S 1804, which is inferior to HR 676. Indeed, the Senate Bill is so deficient that many in the single payer movement cannot support it unless it is significantly revised. We want the House Bill to remain strong and fully supported by the entire single payer movement as the gold standard that the Senate must measure up to.

We are committed to winning National Improved Medicare for All and believe the movement is capable of winning this issue in the near future. It will be a historic victory for the United States. We want to help you succeed in leading this effort.

We urge you to release a draft copy of the new legislation before the end of the year, so people can have input before it is made final. We are being asked to mobilize support for the new HR 676, but we cannot support a bill we have not seen.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you are willing to release a draft copy of the new legislation for input and when we can expect to receive it.

Kind regards,

Margaret Flowers, MD, coordinator, Health Over Profit for Everyone campaign
Kip Sullivan, Health Care for All Minnesota
Leigh K. Haynes - People's Health Movement-USA*
Eric Naumburg, M.D., M.P.H., Healthcare is a Human Right Maryland
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Kay Tillow, Coordinator, All Unions Committee for Single Payer Health Care--HR 676
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Bill Moyer, Backbone Campaign
James Squire, MD United for Single Payer
Lee Stanfield, HOPE Steering Committee, Founder of Single-Payer NOW Tucson*
Jody Coss and Ed Klein, co-directors, HOPE in the Midwest
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Richard Bruno, MD, MPH, HOPE steering committee
Sue Saltmarsh, Executive Director, Demand Universal Healthcare (DUH)
Terry Flowers, retired pharmacist
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*For identification purposes only.