

PROPOSALS for COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM at THE FEDERAL LEVEL

The following bills have been introduced by the Congress in recent years:

The Medicare for All Act (S. 2229 and H.R. 4683) would guarantee coverage of every citizen, phased in over a 10 year period. At this time it is estimated that the financing would require a 7% payroll tax on businesses and a 1.7% tax on workers. By comparison, businesses today spend an estimated 13% of payroll on their health plans. Unions could continue to bargain for supplemental benefits. This bill was introduced by Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass) and Rep. John Dingell (D-Michigan)

The United States National Health Insurance Act (H.R. 676) would create a publicly-financed, privately-delivered health care program based on Medicare. All U.S. residents would be covered. Funding would come from maintaining the current Medicare payroll taxes and Medicaid funding, plus an additional 3.3% payroll tax on employers and a 5% tax on the top five percent of income earners. Other funding would come from eliminating the Bush tax cut, closing corporate tax loopholes, and new taxes on stock and bond transfers. This bill was introduced by Rep. John Conyers (D-Michigan)

The American Health Security Act (H.R. 1200) would create a new health care system which would replace all currently existing public programs. Private health insurance plans would be permitted only to supplement the new public plan which would cover virtually all U.S. residents. The program would be administered by the states. This bill was introduced by Rep. Jim McDermott, MD, (D-Washington)

For more detailed information on these pending bills please refer to internet resources.