

Talking About Single Payer

In the last election while canvassing all registered Chico voters, many of them renters, I decided to introduce our Democratic Assembly candidate in a non-partisan manner.

Since he was a strong single-payer healthcare advocate, I introduced him as such and then simply asked voters if they had heard about single-payer health care. In 49 out of 50 encounters, this led to conversations about challenges with our current health care.

While single payer has historically been a partisan issue in the legislature, it turns out Republican and Independent voters were as friendly to the ideas as were Democrats. I concluded that, when staying away from a partisan discussion by not immediately identifying my candidate's party affiliation and by having a truthful discussion, there is overwhelming support for single payer.

I remember one Republican voter who, after listening to the basics of single-payer health care, shared that his family had recently had medical emergencies. He didn't know how he would pay for his bills. He understood that had single payer been implemented, he would not have this huge concern.

Let's not forget that the big three—insurance, hospitals, and pharma—have spent an untold fortune (hundreds of millions of dollars) over the last 50 years to misrepresent what single payer really is and would do. Media have carried their lies into households across the country.

I wanted to share my approach with others, so I wrote a script and recorded a short video. I hope it inspires many to have conversations with neighbors and others. No need to wait for an election. In fact, the sooner we can build a broader base for single payer, the sooner we'll win it!

While we won't answer every question to everyone's satisfaction, we can open the dialogue, listen to stories people have, and make these main points in a non-confrontational manner:

- Everyone will have a medical card which provides access to all medical care: physicians, hospitals, pharmaceuticals, etc.
- A graduated tax system will replace all premiums, co-payments, deductibles, pharma, and out of pocket expenses, which will cost most people less than they pay now.
- There will no longer be medical debt or bankruptcy.

Please share my [video](#) with your network, especially with those members you avoid having political/social discussions with. And don't forget to share this [calculator](#) so people can see how much they may save when we all have the health care we need.

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