

National Healthcare

A national health care system will provide all Americans with efficient and affordable healthcare while improving our economy. When you get sick, you should be able to see a doctor. It's that simple. Over a million Virginians are uninsured, and three-quarters of these work full-time or live with someone who does. We can do better than this.

“America's health care system is neither healthy, caring, nor a system.” -Walter Cronkite

I support a national health care system because it will:

- **Provide Healthcare Access for All Americans**—Every American would be covered by the system, including the 45 million Americans who are currently uninsured and those who can barely afford health insurance. All would have their choice of doctors, hospitals, and pharmacies. Healthcare access would be universal.
- **Unburden Employers and Boost the Economy**—Businesses which are freed from skyrocketing healthcare costs can offer higher wages, hire more workers, and be more competitive internationally. Today's system encourages employers not to offer health benefits and not to hire full-time workers, especially older workers, who might have to be provided with expensive health benefits.
- **Reduce the Cost of Healthcare**—Redundant overhead costs, corporate profit margins, and exorbitant fees for services and prescription drugs would all be eliminated and bring down the cost of medical care in this country. Currently, we spend twice as much per person on healthcare costs than do virtually all other industrialized countries, and the care we receive is ranked at the bottom.
- **Save Medicare**—High costs of health care are a direct result of inefficiencies and a continued stream of high profits to favored special interests. This is depleting the Medicare Trust Fund at a rate faster than anticipated. George Bush recently announced that the trust fund will run out in 2018 – just twelve years away.