

**Testimony in SUPPORT of LD 1397:  
An Act to Establish a Single-payor Health Care System To Be  
Effective in 2017**



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***American people need health care, not health insurance.*** ([Read more...](#))

LD 1397 has my total support. **American people need health care, not health insurance.** Currently 60% of Americans are on a single payer health care plan, through Medicare, Medicaid and Government Insurance, which includes the Military. I was married for 21 years to a member of the U.S. Air Force. The one single biggest financial stressor a family can have is health care. Being in the Military, a family does not have this stressor. And, like Medicare and Medicaid, the system is managed solely by the government...not through insurance companies.

For several years we were stationed in Canada. So much propaganda has been given to the American public about health care systems in other countries. When living in Canada we lived right in downtown communities, both in North Bay, Ontario and Val D'Or, Quebec, and formed close friendships with other young couples. We were covered by the American Military, but we went to Canadian doctors and Canadian hospitals...particularly with the birth of our 2nd child. We, along with our Canadian friends, received both timely and excellent care, without the exaggerated waits that are portrayed by opponents to single payer health care. Our Canadian friends had their babies, got their well-baby care, if they had an injury or an accident, they went to the hospital and were treated. The Canadians even received a "baby bonus", which were vouchers for orange juice and milk for their families. Because our little boy was born there, he was entitled to receive this bonus...we declined because our government asked Americans to decline if they could afford to. But this was a benefit that the government provided to their citizens when their children were born and was part of their "well baby plan".

While living in Canada, I met and became close friends with a woman named Margaret Clark, originally from Kitchner, Ontario. She was had a 3 year old when we became friends in North Bay (she was 34). A year or so after we met she developed uterine cancer. It spread rapidly and she passed away from it...that was 36 years ago. She was in and out of hospitals, surgeries, etc. Her

husband praised the doctors and other medical professionals for all that was done for her. There were no hospital bills, no prescriptions wiping them out. Her husband had to deal with taking care of her and their son but it wasn't the stressor it would have been to a family here. And her care was immediate and even considered progressive at the time in the early 70s.

Later, we moved to Germany and became friends with our neighbors and again saw them going about their lives and going to doctors when needed and they explained there was never an issue with the care that was provided.

The burden that is placed on American working people and employers is monumental, and it doesn't have to be this way. It's time for change, to stop doing something over and over that isn't working efficiently.

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