

Monday, October 26, 2020

Representative Krishnamoorthi:

Thank you for briefly speaking with us Thursday (audio attached). We hope it represents the start of a change of heart on the urgent issues of Medicare for All and Campaign Finance Reform, and we look forward to continuing an open dialogue with you.

**We don't share your belief that the public option will be the solution to guarantee high quality health care as a human right to everyone.** Any system that requires payment does not achieve this. Rather than cutting overall healthcare expenditures, a public option will shift the cost of the most expensive patients to the government, and therefore not be sustainable. By preserving the bond between insurance and employment, when unemployment is at an all-time high since the Great Depression, patients would still be subjected to unaffordable premiums, deductibles, COBRA, and surprise bills that let the most vulnerable among us suffer and die. While you have expressed concern that your constituents do not want to lose their coverage, many Americans are misled by the media and by other politicians with fear, uncertainty and doubt about Medicare for All. We, as your constituents, are asking you to educate people on what is in their best interest and to stand up for what is right in the urgency of this pandemic.

The time to join [every other developed country](#) in guaranteeing healthcare as a human right is now. **Please put your legislative prowess to work in supporting Medicare for All and use your impressive media profile to advocate for this necessary change.**

We didn't mean to offend you by raising the issue of your campaign finance. Our primary concern is the [contributions you accept](#) from corporate PACs, including thousands of dollars from doctors' lobbies; for-profit insurers like AON, Cigna, and UHG; and out-of-district pharmaceutical companies that have been sued, fined, or investigated for price gouging and fraud. **Although you may have good intentions, at the very least, they create the appearance of a conflict of interest and give a platform to the very people responsible for our nation's healthcare crisis.**

As constituents, we know that at the center of a proper democracy is the will and the needs of the people. We do not believe that big money belongs in politics. If, as you said on your call, these contributions comprise a small portion of your \$8 million campaign fund and play no role in your decision-making, it should be easy for you to **return the money to the donors and sign [ISPC Patients Over Profits pledge](#):**

**The pledge:**

*I pledge that I will not take contributions over \$200 from executives, lobbyists, and PACs affiliated with the hospital, insurance, and pharma corporations within the corporate front group, Partnership for America's Health Care Future, and instead pledge to put the health, well-being, and safety of my constituents over corporate health industry profits."*

We look forward to continuing an open dialogue with you; we are requesting to schedule a more in-depth meeting with more of us **as soon as possible**.

Sincerely,

**John Kokoris**, 8th District Coordinator, Schaumburg Area Progressives

**Nidhi Shastri**, Organizer, Illinois Single Payer Coalition

**Sheila Rawat & Elisa Devlin**

Co-Chairs of

