

# Summary of HR 1384, The Medicare for All Act of 2019

## Title I. Establishment of Medicare for All

**Strengths** – covers all residents; prohibits discrimination; bans private insurance from duplicating coverage.

**Weaknesses** – excludes those aged 19 to 54 until the end of the second year; anti-discrimination language doesn't meet the international human rights standard; does not presume a person is in the system when they seek health services.

## Title II. Comprehensive Benefits

**Strengths** – comprehensive coverage including long term care and services, reproductive care, complementary and integrative care and transportation; no cost-sharing; health professionals may override practice standards if it is medically necessary, in the best interest of the patient and desired by the patient.

## Title III. Providers

**Strengths** – providers are restricted to people or institutions that provide direct patient care; financial incentives/disincentives are prohibited; whistleblowers are protected; and institutions must meet certain standards including safe staffing ratios;

**Weaknesses** – a provider can choose to not participate in the system and bill a patient directly for services that are covered by the health system.

## Title IV. Administration

**Strengths** – includes health planning for capital projects; specifies planning for health professional education; creates a national database for research; emphasis on medically underserved.

## Title V. Quality Assessment

**Strengths** – creates a center for clinical standards and quality; will provide data on health disparities.

## Title VI. Budget

**Strengths** – creates a national health budget that includes funds for underserved areas and prevention and public health; capital budgets are separate; individual institutions receive an operating budget; worker assistance for up to five years; negotiation of drug prices and ability to patent and produce pharmaceuticals.

**Weakness** – allows for-profit institutions to continue to exist.

### **Title VII. Medicare Trust Fund**

**Strengths** – there is no restriction on the use of federal dollars for reproductive health services.

### **Title VIII. ERISA**

**Strengths** – makes necessary changes to ERISA so employer health plans cannot duplicate the system.

### **Title IX. Additional Amendments**

**Strengths** – specifies that ongoing care will not be disrupted by the new system; sunsets programs such as pay for performance, value-based payments, and the merit-based incentive payment system.

### **Title X. Transition**

**Strengths** – eliminates 24-month waiting period for people with disabilities.

**Weakness** – complicated phase-in that omits people ages 19 to 55 for the first year (47% of the population).