

MISSION

To educate and mobilize League members to work toward legislation and other reforms that enact the goals of our LWVUS health care position, with a strong focus on [expanded and improved Medicare for All](#).

Declining satisfaction with commercial health care helps us make case for SinglePayer/ Medicare for All

A key piece of the argument against private companies controlling health care financing is making sure people are aware of how poorly they do it. Until recently, reform advocates had to make their own case against corporate control. More and more, however, we can piggy-back on the growing chorus of voices expressing frustration at lack of access to care and highlighting the harms caused when insurance companies deny or delay care. Increasing numbers of articles published by news outlets across the political spectrum express outrage at our fragmented health care infrastructure that erodes quality and keeps expenditures perpetually rising.

We witnessed an extreme example of that outrage in December 2024 when Luigi Mangione shot and killed the United Health CEO on a New York City street. Most people decried the murder, but his audacity touched a nerve. Luigi has become somewhat of a folk hero with thousands of supporting letters from around the world and [a legal defense fund](#) of more than \$1.5 million, crowdsourced from more than 42,000 donors also frustrated by healthcare dysfunction. Consumer dissatisfaction with health insurance embodied by United Health is back in the news this week as Luigi appears in court for [his latest pleadings](#).

Likewise, the big Beastly Budget Bill, HR 1 of July 4th, 2025 is making the current system even more dire. Its huge cuts to the federal share of publicly-financed health care is amplifying the pain its funding priorities inflict on individuals and states across the nation. [Individuals priced out of health care are mostly going without](#). And the price in [excess mortality and preventable deaths](#) is already being felt even before the largest cuts have actually been made.

Anticipating Mangione's drastic action, a [2024 Gal-](#)

[lop poll](#) found positive ratings of health care and pharmaceutical business practices to be the lowest of all business sectors. Even the [Bulwark](#), the media group co-founded by well-known conservative William Kristol, complains of widespread dysfunction.

At the federal level, health care reform is welcoming more bi-partisan voices. In 2026, conservative Senator from [Missouri Josh Hawley](#) joined with progressive Senator [Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts](#) to target massive conflicts of interest

\$34B

Annual profit of the six largest Big Medicine conglomerates

\$795B

Annual cost of Big Medicine administrative waste

within the vertically-integrated medical industry that allows health care giants to profit from every aspect of a consumer's care. The [“Break Up Big Medicine” Act](#) website provides a collection point for stories of personal and institutional harm from unchecked corporate policies.

Crucially, bad press for corporate waste and anti-competitive behavior is not restricted to health care. In a recent video on the topic, Abdul El Sayed, the Senate candidate for Michigan (who happens to be an author of one of the [most readable book-length explanations of Medicare for All](#)) illustrates how a corporate merger led to inflation in the [price of cherry pie](#). A more widespread story explained by the American Economic Liberties Project [exposes unchecked price-fixing for eggs](#).

It's becoming clearer that hiking prices for so many goods and services to “what the market will bear” is a corporate choice. Perhaps a positive outcome of the pervasive inflation and diminished quality we are experiencing in so many fields will be to strengthen the political will to enact the economic solution in health care that peer countries have been modeling for us for years. *Submitted by Barbara Pearson.*

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7/26 Mtg

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**In Case You Missed It**

June 16 — Toulouse School of Economics hosted Jonathan Gruber from MIT speaking about “[What Is Universal Health Coverage?](#)”

July 9 — KFF’s Matt Rae presented “[What Your Employer-based Health Coverage Really Costs](#)”

July 22 — Progressive Congressional Caucus hosted a hearing “[Universal Healthcare: Now Is the Time for Medicare for All](#)” with Congresswomen Pramila Jayapal and Debbie Dingell.

July 26 — HCR4US meeting [minutes](#), [video](#) and [audio](#) and [supplementary materials](#) with Action Links

July 30 — NBC News presents over 30 stories in a year-long series “[Cost of Denial](#).”

Upcoming

Sept. 16 8:00 p.m. ET LWV of Roselle-Bloomington IL Area will host a free virtual presentation “**Healthcare Affordability Crisis: Reforms We Needed Yesterday**” featuring Matt Stoller, of the American Economic Liberties Project and Dr. Claudia M. Fegan, National Coordinator of Physicians for a National Health Program. Register [here](#).

Networking**One Payer States**

<https://www.onepayerstates.org/>

National Single Payer

<https://nationalsinglepayer.com/>

Healthcare Advocacy on Substack

[Here’s the link.](#)

Physicians for a Nat’l Health Program

<https://pnhp.org/>

Center for Medicare Advocacy

<https://www.MedicareAvocacy.org>

HCR4US Websites**HCR4US Toolkit:**

<https://lwvhealthcarereform.org>

HCR4US Youtube Channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/c/
LWVHealthCareReform](https://www.youtube.com/c/LWVHealthCareReform)

HCR4US Web-Contact Form:

tinyurl.com/Contact-LWV-HCR-4US

League Update Newsletter Sign Up:

[https://www.lwv.org/league-management/
league-update-newsletter-sign](https://www.lwv.org/league-management/league-update-newsletter-sign)

Article Archive**Recent Articles of Interest Related to Healthcare Reform**

August 14, 2026

[Becker’s Hospital Review](#)

“Single-payer System Would Save \$1 Trillion, 114,000 Lives Annually: Yale Study” By Jakob Emerson

“The study, ... not yet peer-reviewed, modeled the transition from the current multi-payer system to a single-payer structure as proposed under the [Medicare for All Act](#). ”

July 29, 2026

[Wellness Voice](#)

“Healthcare Costs Fuel Election Debate Over the Future of System Reform” By Adam Brent

“As states prepare for policy decisions tied to healthcare funding and elections, leaders [like the president of One Payer States Chuck Pennacchio PhD] examine administrative costs, access challenges, and potential system reforms.

May 8—Aug 11, 2026

[Paul Krugman Substack](#)

“Curing U.S. Health Care”

By Paul Krugman

A three-part series plus one by a longtime skeptic of Medicare for All. Part I: [America doesn’t have to be like this](#) May 8. Part II: [How we got to Obamacare](#) May 28. Part III: [What reform could look like](#) June 17. Most recent: [The U.S. healthcare system is already mostly socialized](#) Aug 11.

Feb 10, 2026

[HEALTH CARE un-covered](#)

“Hawley and Warren Introduce ‘Break Up Big Medicine Act’ to Force Separation of Insurers, PBMs and Providers”

By Wendell Potter

“Bipartisan bill modeled on the 1933 Glass-Steagall Act would require health care conglomerates to divest vertically integrated subsidiaries.”

Dec 4, 2025

[NPR All Things Considered](#)

“U.S. Health Care Is Broken. Here Are Three Ways It’s Getting Worse”

By Maria Aspan

“This wide-ranging crisis for both consumers and businesses underlines the brokenness of the U.S. health care system: When neither the people it’s supposed to serve nor the people making money from it are happy, does it work at all? ”

Dec. 6, 2024

[NPR Morning Edition](#)

“After a Shocking Shooting, Americans Vent Feelings About Health Insurance

by Selena Simmons-Duffin

“The shocking, targeted killing of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson Wednesday struck a nerve on social media, triggering an outpouring of negative experiences with the tangled health care system in the U.S.”