

# Medicare for All Benefits to Local Public Agencies Template for Testimony

(3 minute version)

*MFA Benefits to [Cities, Counties, School Districts, etc.] script template*

Good evening to all and thanks for hearing my testimony. I am \_\_\_\_\_ [your name] a resident here in \_\_\_\_\_ [city name] for over \_\_\_\_\_ [number] years, I come before you to advocate for your support for Medicare For All, that would provide for an expanded and improved Single Payer Universal Healthcare system to service all residents in this area.

Over the past 60 years, 58 other countries established universal healthcare programs for all of their citizens and are now paying half of what the US pays for healthcare. While those countries were doing that, the US established Medicare – but only for seniors and the disabled, leaving everyone else to the vagaries of a market that has inflated the cost of medicine to more than twice that of every other country on earth. Medicare by all measures is a success for people over 65 but why isn't it for everyone? **Think of it.** We can now correct that mistake and go on record for making healthcare **a right** for all of our people while **saving billions of taxpayers' dollars.** Multiple rigorous scientific studies of Single Payer Healthcare have determined that it's not only financially feasible but it would save countless lives.

## 1 Minute

As the richest nation in the world, the United States could easily implement a Single Payer system and should do so for the following reasons:

1. **It's right for our communities.** Expanded Medicare includes all medications, dental, vision, long term care, mental health and addiction treatment, with **no co-pays or deductibles, or other hidden or surprise charges.** This means healthier happier and more secure families and our immigrant residents. It means we can all concentrate on our careers, our education or our enjoyment of life without the insecurity of not knowing if a single illness or accident will put us out of our homes or bankrupt us.
2. **It's right for our businesses.** Single Payer Healthcare finally unties healthcare payment from employment, without complicated health plan negotiations. Workers are free to change jobs, or start their own businesses. In the new 'gig' economy, it means a programmer working from home, a personal trainer, or an Uber driver doesn't have to forgo healthcare just because they participate in an economy outside of the corporate model. **In fact, it might be the only way to stem the tide of working, middle-class**

# MEDICARE FOR ALL RESOLUTIONS

**Americans who are out-migrating to other countries by the hundreds of thousands or even millions.** It means no extra medical liabilities for Workers Compensation or property insurances. **America can be globally competitive once again.**

## 2 Minutes

3. **And finally, it's right for our [city, county, school district, etc.].** Under newly proposed financing mechanisms, cities, counties, school districts, and even the state itself could be completely exempt from contributing to the Medicare for All Trust Fund. **So, you do the math.** Take whatever the annual budget is for Employee Health here in \_\_\_\_\_ [city, county, school district, etc. name] and make that a zero-line-item. In many public agencies, especially those that are more service-oriented and therefore labor intensive, that can be as much as between 10 and 50% of the annual budget. So, here in \_\_\_\_\_ [city, county, school district, etc. name] that could be as much as \_\_\_\_\_ [50% of total annual budget]. That amount could fund our infrastructure, housing, child care, public schools, and sustainable living needs.

**There has never been an easier decision for this [city council, county board, school board, etc.] to make.**

Fellow citizens, the time has come for us to demand of our representatives that they do the responsible thing and pass Single Payer Universal Healthcare and make expanded and improved Medicare For All a reality. It's the right thing for our families and communities, our businesses, and especially for our [city, county, school district, etc.].

Thanks.

## < 3 Minutes