The Three Reasons Medicare for All is Bad for Consumers, Employees

Today is the 11th anniversary of the Affordable Care Act becoming law. In the past year, the U.S. has faced unprecedented disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for U.S. businesses and millions of employees across the country.

Big picture: At a time when the health of America's workforce has never been more important, it is imperative for policymakers to strengthen – rather than destabilize – employer-sponsored insurance (ESI), the health coverage that American workers and their families depend on as part of the backbone of the nation's health care system.

Why it matters: Proposals calling to abolish ESI in favor of an untested public take-over of our health system, such as Medicare for All, remain prevalent. It is ironic that proponents believe that Medicare for All will make care more affordable and improve access when it will do quite the opposite.

Details: A recent analysis on the impact of Medicare for All underscores how disruptive such a sweeping change would be for consumers. A single-payer system will lead to:

1. Higher out-of-pocket costs and premiums for millions of American and employees
2. A reduction in access to providers and hospitals
3. A chilling effect on medical innovation that has been so fundamental to our nation's response to COVID-19

Bottom line: America's workers value their existing coverage. It's time for policymakers to protect the insurance on which millions depend for their health and wellbeing.

ICYMI: Last week, the Chamber came out opposing a Medicare for All proposal that would eliminate private insurance coverage.

–Katie Mahoney, Vice President for Health Policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

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