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ILLINOIS SINGLE-PAYER COALITION
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Health Disparities and Single-Payer Health Care

"Of all forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhuman."
-- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to the Medical Committee on Human Rights, 1966

Health disparities—based on race, gender, geographic location, or socioeconomic status—are deeply embedded in American society. A single-payer health care system alone will not eliminate those disparities, but it will provide a secure and equitable base from which we can begin to address them. Here's how:

A single-payer system is based on the principle of equal access for all.

- It recognizes health care as a human right and creates a single tier of care for everyone.
- It eliminates financial barriers to care.
- It ensures that health care providers are paid equitably regardless of where they work, so they can afford to work in economically disadvantaged areas.

A single-payer system is comprehensive and patient-centered.

- It covers all medically necessary care, for everyone.
- It invests in public health and in primary and preventive care.
- It is based on systemwide planning, and involves communities in decisions about health care delivery and the location of health care resources.

A single-payer system is an investment in people, not a profit-driven industry.

- It contains costs and keeps health care affordable not by limiting care but by eliminating profit-driven decisions and wasteful bureaucracy.
- It includes everyone in the same system, ensuring that all of us have an investment in making the system work.

To learn more about single-payer health care, visit www.ilsinglepayer.org

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