

HEALTH CARE OVER WEALTH CARE: SENATOR MARKEY'S AGENDA FOR PROTECTING PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS FROM CORPORATE GREED

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Chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Subcommittee on
Primary Health and Retirement Security

INTRODUCTION

On April 3, 2024, Senator Markey held a HELP Subcommittee hearing titled, "When Health Care Becomes Wealth Care: How Corporate Greed Puts Patient Care and Health Workers at Risk." For-profit forces in our health systems, including Steward Health Care, overwhelm health providers and undercut access to high quality care. In health care, the risks related to corporate greed are too great to tolerate.

This is a call to action for a health care system that places health over wealth by demanding transparency and accountability, protecting patients and providers, guaranteeing health care for all.

ACTION ITEMS

1. DEMAND TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH OVERSIGHT.

Senator Markey has called out corporate greed in health care by:

- Launching a bipartisan investigation into the role of **private equity** investment in opioid treatment programs based on concern that investors are prioritizing profits over the health of patients with opioid use disorder;
- Calling for the reversal of **Walgreen's** divestment in Black and Brown neighborhoods in Boston;
- Partnering with Senator Warren (D-MA) to investigate **Steward's** profiteering; and
- Partnering with Senator Sanders (I-VT) to investigate Big Pharma's exorbitant **inhaler prices**.

2. CREATE IMMEDIATE SAFEGUARDS TO PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM CORPORATE GREED HOLLOWING OUT HEALTH CARE THROUGH HIS HEALTH OVER WEALTH ACT.

Senator Markey released a discussion draft of the Health over Wealth Act. The Health over Wealth Act would require greater transparency in health care entity ownership; put safeguards in place to protect workers and preserve access to health care; and elevate the voices of workers and communities in regulating health care and monitoring hospital closures and service reductions. The Health over Wealth Act includes several provisions that are similar to Representative Jayapal's *Health Care Ownership Transparency Act*. Senator Markey is accepting comments on this draft until May 3, 2024.

Visit markey.senate.gov/HealthOverWealth for more information.

3. ACHIEVE MEDICARE FOR ALL AND PASS THE GREEN NEW DEAL FOR HEALTH

Senator Markey believes that we need a health system that ensures access to care for every American by investing in community health, health workers, and health infrastructure-- one that will be less vulnerable to corporate greed because it prioritizes people instead of profit. Senator Markey is filing the State Based Universal Health Care Act to pave the way for Medicare for All. The State Based Universal Health Care Act would allow states to obtain a "super waiver" from the Department of Health and Human Services to provide comprehensive, universal health coverage to all residents. This bill is cosponsored by Senator Warren and led by Representative Khanna in the House.

Senator Markey will also continue fighting to pass his *Green New Deal for Health*, which would substantially increase investment in community health centers to guarantee access to primary care for every American; better support health workers; provide greater accountability for health care closures and service reductions; and provide funding for improved health care infrastructure for non-profit providers.