Toledo, Ohio

December 11, 2018

Dear Members of the Insurance Committee,

Below are some brief thoughts of my wife Betsy Gouvernayre and myself. We feel very strongly that a single payer system is the best solution for Ohio and the country, and would be happy to provide further testimony, also in person if desired

**Statement of Tim Pryor**

I lived in Windsor, Ontario , Canada for 40 years, before moving  to Toledo a few years ago.  The health care system in Canada works, but are alot of misconceptions out there, and id be happy to try and rebut some of the arguments brought up

Canada would periodically study the US system. I remember a finding, many years ago, that a minimum of 20% was directly wasted in the US, not counting overpriced drugs and the like . Doctors offices with big clerical staffs. fancy hospital facilities some of which look like the Intercontinental Hotel lobby, excess equipment and so on. And yet people live longer in Canada. Two years longer on the average as I understand it. All while paying at least - *at least* - 20% less. And the quality of life in general is better too, in large measure related to health care provided everyone .

A thing that often strikes me is the impact on productivity of the general population.    Nobody in Canada worries about health care, but here in Ohio and the US in general, discussions in homes, or at parties, or anywhere, often turns to health care related concerns and whether you can change jobs, or pay bills, or even just figure out the crazy-quilt system.  We are draining our society of funds, time and energy. Just to understand the bills that arrive in the mail, or the differences in possible insurance policies, takes chunk out of your day. And this is if you are lucky enough to have an insurance policy.

Having been associated with the Car business, I just shook my head in disbelief watching GM and Chrysler go bankrupt, in part because of health care costs. Why should companies be the vehicle to pay for basic health care at all? Frills maybe could be offered (as we did, at the company I started), but not the basics. Much of the commotion over the ACA seems to swirl around company involvement issues, when it shouldn’t be that way in the first place. How can you compete internationally if you are saddled with a cost that is related to society in general, not your business, and over which you have no control.

To conclude, this is one example where a Government run system works. I don’t understand the almost knee jerk opposition to a broad based national (or state) system. Medicare seems to work pretty well, why can’t it be expanded to cover everyone?

My wife lived in France for 25 years, and her brief statement follows. Incidentally the Canadians concluded in one study that France had the best system.

Sincerely,

Tim Pryor

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**Statement of Elizabeth Gouvernayre**

During the 25 years that I lived in France, I received excellent healthcare for both myself and my children. Maternity care and Obstetric care were prompt and effective. Neither I, nor my children, were ever refused care. Partial dental coverage including braces for my daughters was included in the system.

For most medical visits, I paid the first $20 , sometimes less, and the remaining balance was covered by filling out a simple one-page form. My mother-in-law, who is 93, has had 3 hip surgeries, treatment for macular degeneration, care for a pulmonary embolism and has also never been refused any treatment . In addition, there is a monthly $1000 contribution to her long-term care facility where she continues to receive excellent care by both doctors and nurses who are on staff

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