

For Immediate Release

Growing Impact of Coronavirus in the U.S. a Gamechanger for Super Tuesday Voters in Six States

Hamilton, NJ, March 11, 2020 – With the field narrowed to just two Democratic candidates, Americans in six states during the nation’s second Super Tuesday, were faced with not only choosing candidates, but also choosing between a pathway to Sanders’ Medicare-for-All approach or Biden’s universal healthcare. The coronavirus pandemic is now focusing voter concerns on healthcare.

“As lawmakers, health officials and others attempt to stem the tide of novel coronavirus in the United States, I have two major concerns,” said Edward Eichhorn, co-architect of the Eichhorn-Hutchinson Universal Healthcare Plan.

“Today more than 70 million Americans are either uninsured or underinsured. These are individuals who typically do not seek medical care when they become ill. If these citizens get infected and do not self-quarantine they will exponentially increase the potential for community spread of COVID-19,” Eichhorn said.

Eichhorn’s second concern is that there will likely be a large increase in co-pays and deductible fees for the insured, and increased bad debt for doctors and hospitals for the services they will provide to uninsured/underinsured patients that contract novel coronavirus. This will adversely impact the more than 3,000 hospitals that - under normal conditions - are unprofitable or barely in the black.

“Many U.S. citizens live paycheck-to-paycheck and, when they become infected, are likely to continue to work during the early stages, thereby unintentionally infecting whomever they come in contact with,” Eichhorn added.

According to Eichhorn, in the very near-term Congress should develop a funding plan that encourages everyone who develops symptoms - with or without insurance - to self-quarantine and seek treatment during this health crisis.

Dr. Michael Hutchinson, co-author of the plan stated: “In the long-term we need a better, well-planned approach to universal care for Americans that will reduce costs, improve outcomes and encourage physicians to continue to practice medicine. Simply put, Medicare-for-All, as it stands, is *not* that plan.”

The Healing American Healthcare Coalition endorses the universal healthcare plan co-authored by Eichhorn and Hutchinson. According to the Coalition, if the United States were to adopt this approach, employers would be required to provide healthcare plans, but could choose between being self-insured, buying private insurance, or selecting a competitive public option.

“The current COVID-19 crisis is a wakeup call to public policy makers in the United States,” Dr. Hutchinson said. “The rapid and pervasive spread of the novel coronavirus is likely to overwhelm the current system and increase medical-related bankruptcies throughout the nation. Future plans for effectively managing life-threatening health-related events like the novel coronavirus should begin with a universal healthcare plan that provides comparable coverage for all Americans.”

By fostering competition in the private insurance market with a cost-effective public option, the Eichhorn-Hutchinson plan is expected to reduce employer healthcare costs by as much as 30%.

The Coalition believes that implementing the Eichhorn-Hutchinson universal healthcare plan would not lead to an increase in government funding, and it is likely that federal and state costs for Medicaid would decline. In total, it is estimated that the Eichhorn-Hutchinson plan could save up to *one trillion dollars* per year while covering every US citizen to a very high standard.

Key Outcomes Under the Eichhorn-Hutchinson Plan

- All employers provide health insurance
- Public option funded by tax on employers who choose this option for their employees
- Substantially *lower* than current health care costs incurred by employers
- Public option will create price competition
- Preserves a role for private insurers
- Healthcare costs can be reduced to 12 percent of GDP over ten years (from the current 19%)
- Medical billing will be simplified
- Medical-related bankruptcies in the U.S. will decrease by 50 percent
- Drug prices will be negotiated on a national level
- American life expectancy will increase
- Insurance premiums will decrease by as much as 30 percent
- Up to one trillion dollars in cost reduction annually

A reference book that describes the plan in greater detail, “Healing American Healthcare”, was recently made available to thousands of libraries throughout the United States through New Shelves Books. For more information about the Eichhorn-Hutchinson plan visit HealingAmericanHealthcare.org.

About Healing American Healthcare Coalition

The Healing American Healthcare Coalition is an independent organization dedicated to providing its members with timely and insightful information and reports concerning universal healthcare proposals and programs. The Coalition is not a political action committee, nor is it affiliated with any political party. The Coalition’s mission is to be a trusted objective source regarding the current discussions on potential healthcare initiatives that could have an impact on the health and well-being of Americans today and in the future.

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