

# Howie Hawkins

**Independent Green Populist candidate for US Congress**

## **Medicare for All**

### **National Health Insurance through a Single Public Payer**

*Howie Hawkins supports HR 676, The United States National Health Insurance Act (Expanded and Improved Medicare For All), a bill in Congress with 91 co-sponsors.*

*Hawkins' opponents, Democrat Dan Maffei and Republican Dale Sweetland, do not support HR 676.*

HR 676 provides for publicly financed and privately delivered health care for all, with free choice of doctors and hospitals by patients, and comprehensive coverage of all medical services, including prescription drugs and long-term care.

Financed by progressive taxes on individuals and businesses, it would cover all US residents at less cost to working people and society than our existing mix of private and public insurance.

Private insurance leaves over 46 million Americans uninsured and 50 million more only partially insured.

Private insurance bureaucracy and paperwork is enormously wasteful, consuming 31 percent of every health care dollar. A single nonprofit payer would save more than \$350 billion per year in administrative costs, a Harvard Medical School study found.

Public oversight would set policies, not high priced CEOs seeking to inflate their compensation packages and company profits.

The US spends twice as much per person as any other country

on health care, yet ranks 37th in health care, according to the World Health Organization. Medical bills cause over half of US household bankruptcies each year.

Under HR 676, fair fee-for-service reimbursements applied equally to all providers would control costs while assuring all comprehensive and appropriate health care is delivered. The single public insurer would negotiate volume discounts for prescription drugs and medical equipment.

National health insurance would end insurance company interference with care. Caregivers and patients would regain the autonomy to make decisions based on what is best for a patient's health, not insurance company profits. No one would be denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions.

Up to 27,000 people die each year for lack of insurance, according to an Urban Institute study. It's time to make good health care a right, not a commodity you must "buy or die."

*Howie Hawkins also calls for bringing all US troops home from the wars for oil in the Middle East and Central Asia, deep cuts in military spending, and investing the savings in a new solar-powered sustainable infrastructure for energy security, climate stability, and economic revitalization.*

**For more information: [www.howiehawkins.org](http://www.howiehawkins.org)**  
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Howie Hawkins has been active in movements for peace, justice, the environment, and independent politics since the late 1960s. He lives in Syracuse.

A former Marine, Hawkins organized opposition to the Vietnam War.

He was also active in the anti-apartheid movement to end US corporate investment in the system of racist labor exploitation in South Africa.

After attending Dartmouth College, Hawkins co-founded and worked as a carpenter in a construction workers cooperative that specialized in solar and wind installations.

Hawkins was a co-founder of the anti-nuclear Clamshell Alliance in 1976 and the Green Party in the US in 1984.

A Teamster who now works unloading trucks and rail cars at UPS, Hawkins is active in Teamsters for a Democratic Union and US Labor Against the War.

Hawkins has written articles on politics, economics, environmental issues, and current events for many publications, including *Against the Current*, *Green Politics*, *International Socialist Review*, *New Politics*, *Peace and Democracy News*, and *Z Magazine*.

He is the editor of *Independent Politics: The Green Party Strategy Debate* (Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2006).