

MARILYN'S HEALTHCARE PRIORITIES

Healthcare is a human right. Marilyn understands the value of accessible, affordable, reliable healthcare. Thanks to her father's military service and veteran status, her family always had access to the medical care they needed. When elected to Congress, she will fight for a healthcare system in which everyone, regardless of income, employment or citizenship status, has affordable, equitable, high-quality healthcare.

1 Create a national public option for universal healthcare and lower healthcare costs.

It is long past time for every person in this country to have good, affordable healthcare. Like Vice President Biden, Marilyn supports building on the Affordable Care Act and creating a national public health insurance option that will allow anyone to buy into a publicly funded insurance plan. A public option will add competition to the market and force insurance companies to offer higher quality plans at lower prices. This means lower premiums, lower copays and lower deductibles. Marilyn is for a public option that includes vision, dental and mental health as part of standard coverage.

2 Lower prescription drug costs.

No one should have to ration insulin or skip their life saving medication because they are unable to afford it. As Mayor of Tacoma, Marilyn helped secure funding for the Hilltop Regional Health Clinic, which provides care to 20,000 people annually and houses a pharmacy focused on providing low-cost medication. In Congress, Marilyn will fight to give Medicare the power to negotiate drug prices, forcing pharmaceutical companies to lower prices across the board. Marilyn will work to enact patent reform to get generic drugs to market quickly, lowering the cost of life-saving medication.

3 Lower Medicare eligibility age.

Medicare provides high-quality, affordable healthcare to all who need it. The Medicare eligibility age is currently 65. Marilyn supports lowering the eligibility age to at least 55. Lowering the eligibility age will expand affordable healthcare coverage to more families and lowers costs for all Medicare recipients by bringing a younger population into the pool, who tend to be healthier and use insurance less frequently.

4 Universal free access to birth control and a woman's right to choose.

Access to free birth control and to safe, legal, affordable abortions is a fundamental part of comprehensive healthcare. Marilyn strongly supports protecting women's reproductive health rights so they can make the choices they need for themselves and their families. As Mayor of Tacoma, she joined 105 other Mayors asking Congressional leadership to reject efforts to defund Planned Parenthood. In Congress, she will fiercely defend Roe v. Wade, support restoring federal funding to Planned Parenthood, and fight for reproductive healthcare that is safe, affordable and available to all, regardless of income.

5 End surprise medical bills and require cost transparency from providers.

Many people will get medical help or a procedure they think is covered by their insurance, only to receive a bill days or weeks later for a much higher out-of-network rate. This dishonest practice causes financial distress and can bankrupt families. Marilyn will work to prohibit hospitals and healthcare providers from charging unexpected out-of-network rates and to increase transparency around the cost of medical visits and procedures. Hospitals and healthcare providers must tell patients about full costs up front, and if their insurance is accepted. No one, even people getting routine checkups, should be surprised by the charges on their bill.

6 Raise the age for young adults to stay on their parents' insurance from 26 to 30.

It has been an economically challenging decade, especially for young adults. Many entered the job market during the worst recession since 1929, and just as many were starting jobs and careers, COVID decimated our economy again. Giving young people the ability to stay on their parents' insurance longer will help them be financially stable and give them more economic freedom. It will also add millions of young, healthier people to insurance pools, lowering overall costs for private insurance.

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