Janelle Stelson Supports Government Run Healthcare That Could Raise Taxes On Middle-Class Families By More Than $2,500 A Year, Make The Quality Of Healthcare Worse, And Put Up To 25 Rural Hospitals In Pennsylvania At Risk Of Closure.

VIDEO: In April 2026, Stelson Argued For A Public Healthcare Option In Addition To Private Options. VOTER: "Yeah, just a 30 second follow up, which is—and if you don't that's fine because obviously everyone needs time to be able to formulate a process. Medicare For All, do you have a position on it or not?" STELSON: "I wouldn't call it Medicare For All but do I think that everybody needs better healthcare? Absolutely. I don't know what it would be called in the future but that's really important. We need kind of a public/private option, probably would be the best way to say it where everybody has access, it costs less and you don't have to stress when you need to go to the doctor." (Janelle Stelson, Live Discussion With The PennLive Editorial Board, PennLive, 4/8/26) Minute 21:22-21:54

VIDEO: Stelson Says That She Wants Everyone To Have The Same Healthcare That Congress Has, And Seemingly Agreed That It's The Governments Obligation To Provide Healthcare. MODERATOR: "As we all know there are a lot of health care disparities, whether its age, gender, racial, and—and more. Are you aware that doctors, specifically specialists, can refuse to treat patients? Only emergency rooms cannot refuse to treat people. What do you view as the government's obligation, if any, to help American workers secure access to health care? If so, why or why not, and how would you pay for it?" STELSON: "My eighty-eight-year-old mother is here for three-months, she flew from Seattle, even though she has serious mobility issues. She wanted to help on my campaign. I would like for her to have the same health care that Congress has. I would like you to have the same health care that Congress has. I would like to have the same health care as Congress has. That is just not the way it goes. Over the next year, health care is something—you know it's a primary thing to be healthy, it's a right, if you will. Over the next year, we need to hammer Scott Perry on his record on health care. He has repeatedly voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act—Obamacare—that gave millions of Pennsylvanians, millions of Americans, insurance—health insurance. Some of them for the first time in their lives it must be expanded not ever taken away. I'd also like you to know that Scott Perry, though he touts himself as a fiscal conservative, also voted against the government's ability to negotiate prescription drug prices with drug companies. And I'd like you to know that he did that while he was taking money from big pharma. And that's a mic drop. What has he done over the past twelve-years to help any of us struggling with any issue related to heath care, bupkis. And that will not be the way I will work for you." (Dauphin County Democrats Candidate Forum, 1/13/24) Minute 1:27:45-1:28:17, 1:36:52-1:28:25

According To The Partnership For America's Health Care Future, Introducing A Public Option For Health Coverage Would Require Raising Taxes On Americans. "A new study released by Lanhee J. Chen, Ph.D., Tom Church, and Daniel L. Heil, with support from the Partnership for America's Health Care Future, finds that the public option could increase the federal deficit by $800 billion over 10 years or require a more than $2,500 a year tax increase on the average American family. These tax increase and deficit estimates both represent increases from Chen, Church, and Heil's projections made earlier this year. The study, 'The Budget and Tax Effects of a Federal Public Option After COVID-19,' reveals that during this critical time, the public option would become unaffordable for working families." ("The Public Option Means Higher Taxes for Working Families" Partnership for America's Health Care Future, 10/20/20)

Impact Of A Public Healthcare Option

The Public Option Could Drive Up The Cost Of Healthcare For Private Plans While Increasing Taxes On Middle-Class Families By Over $2,500

The Public Option Is A "Government-Controlled Health Insurance System." "Some politicians are proposing a government-controlled health insurance system called the 'public option,' and claiming it will just be a new health insurance choice for everyone." ("The Public Option," Partnership for America's Health Care Future, Accessed 7/8/26)

According To The Heritage Foundation, If A Public Option Was To Be Enacted, It Would Drive Up The Cost Of Private Insurance Policies, Causing The Average American The Inability To Afford Private Insurance Costs. "After being pressured to participate in the public option and accept government rates, doctors and other medical professionals likely would seek to make up these losses by demanding higher payment from private health plans. To keep their provider networks intact, private plans would have little choice but to either pay the higher rates or reduce their capacity. This, of course, would lead to higher insurance premiums for consumers. The higher premiums would leave the private competitors with fewer enrollees and even higher costs. Ultimately, many, if not most, of the private options would be driven out of the nation's insurance markets altogether." (Nina Owcharenko Schaefer and Robert E. Moffit, PhD, "The 'Public Option': Government-Run Health Care on the Installment Plan," The Heritage Foundation, 2/12/20)

***The Wall Street Journal Opinion:* "The Public Option Would Cause Premiums For Private Insurance To Skyrocket Because Of Underpayment By Government Insurance Compared With Costs For Services."** (Scott W. Atlas, "Public Option Kills Private Insurance," *The Wall Street Journal*, Updated 7/16/19)

***The Wall Street Journal Opinion:* "According To The American Hospital Association, Annual Underpayment By Medicare And Medicaid Surged To Nearly $76.8 Billion In 2017, Nearly Doubling Once Obamacare's Regulations Came Into Play. That Added A Burden Of More Than $1,500 A Year On Families Paying Private Premiums."** (Scott W. Atlas, "Public Option Kills Private Insurance," *The Wall Street Journal*, Updated 7/16/19)

***The Wall Street Journal Opinion:* "A Single-Payer Option Is Not A Moderate, Compromise Proposal. Its Inevitable Consequence Is The Death Of Affordable Private Insurance. Even Democratic Presidential Candidates Calling For 'A Public Option' Openly Admitted In The Recent Debate That It Would Inevitably Lead To A Single-Payer-Dominated System."** (Scott W. Atlas, "Public Option Kills Private Insurance," *The Wall Street Journal*, Updated 7/16/19)

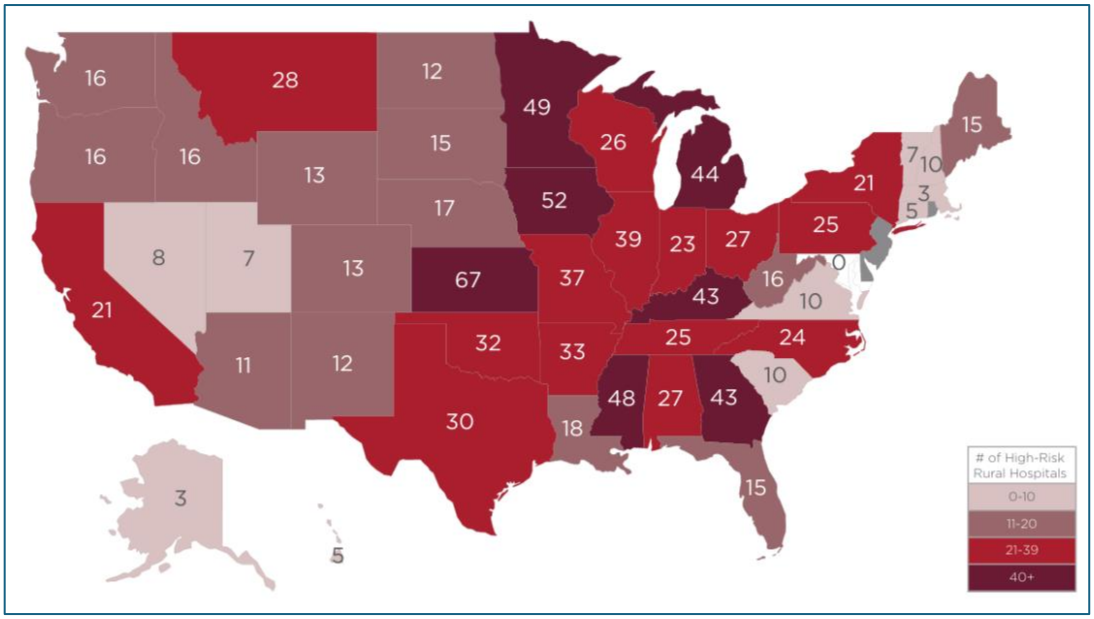
The Paragon Institute Found That Increases In The Availability Of Public Health Insurance Caused An Increase In Wait Times For Care And Worsened Access Problems. "Following the ACA Medicaid expansion, patients had increased wait times and difficulty securing appointments. The problem was particularly severe in Medicaid expansion states as compared with non-expansion states, resulting in "significant increases in respondents delaying care because appointments were not available soon enough or because wait times were too long."46 A 2019 metanalysis of 34 appointment availability audit studies—often called "secret shopper" studies—found that the Medicaid expansion had taken a preexisting access problem for Medicaid patients and made it worse. In studies prior to Medicaid expansion, Medicaid patients had a twofold lower likelihood of securing an appointment compared with privately insured patients, while in post-expansion studies Medicaid patients had a 3.2-fold lower likelihood." (Dr. Joel M. Zinberg and Liam Siagaud, "What Matters For Health," Paragon Health Institute, 12/24)

Costs Of Public Healthcare

A Hoover Institution Study Found A Public Option Would Require A $2,000 A Year Tax Hike On Middle-Income Families. "Using broad-based taxes would require increasing all personal income tax rates by over 30 percent in 2050, raising taxes on middle-income families by over $2,000 a year." (Lanhee J. Chen, Ph.D., Tom Church, and Daniel L. Heil, "The Budget and Tax Effects of a Federal Public Option After COVID-19," The Hoover Institution, 10/20/20)

"During This Critical Time, Financing A Politically Realistic Public Option Would Be More Expensive Than Initially Calculated. The Average American Family Could Eventually See Their Payroll Taxes Increase By More Than $2,500 A Year – A $200 Increase From A January Study." ("New Study: The Public Option Could Lead To A $2,500 Per Year Tax Increase For The Average American Family," Partnership for America's Health Care Future, 10/20/20)

A Public Option Could Put As Many As 25 Rural Hospitals In Pennsylvania At Risk Of Closure. "A new analysis of U.S. rural hospitals has found that offering a government insurance program reimbursing at Medicare rates as a public option on the health insurance exchanges created by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) could place as many as 55% of rural hospitals, or 1,037 hospitals across 46 states, at high risk of closure." (Jeff Goldsmith and Jeff Leibach, "The Potential Impact Of A Medicare Public Option On U.S. Rural Hospitals And Communities: A Scenario Analysis," Navigant, 8/19)



(Jeff Goldsmith and Jeff Leibach, "The Potential Impact Of A Medicare Public Option On U.S. Rural Hospitals And Communities: A Scenario Analysis," Navigant, 8/2/19)