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## Carol Moseley Braun - On the Record - Single Payer Health Care

**“You know, one of the most impressive candidates last night (9/4/03 DNC Candidate Forum) was Braun, Carol Moseley Braun. She was intelligent. She was succinct. She was right about single payer in terms of how to express the healthcare situation as simply as you can and the most effectively. She was very, very strong.”**

**Governor Mario Cuomo,  
*Hardball* - CNBC September 5, 2003**

“We pay more as a percentage of our Gross Domestic Product for health care than any other country. And Americans are no sicker than Japanese or Germans or French or Canadians, for that matter. The difference is that we don't pay for our health care in a very sensible way. So my view is that we have tinkered with Medicare on the one hand, Medicaid on the other, CHIPs and all the various programs-- all of these efforts to try to fix the employment-based system that we have. I think it's time to just say if we're going to have universal coverage, then we need to figure out a way to pay for it in a comprehensive way. And to my view, after all these years of looking at it, I've come to conclude that a single payer system is the way to go.”

**Remarks by Carol Moseley Braun  
*NewsHour, PBS*  
June 9, 2003**

“The federal government needs to take over America's health-care system because the current system costs too much, Democratic presidential candidate Carol Moseley Braun said yesterday.

Calling for a single-payer health care system, Braun told Virginia Democratic leaders that the current, decentralized system of private and public insurance eats up 15 percent of the nation's gross national product.”

***TIMES-DISPATCH,*  
Richmond, VA. August 24, 2003**

“My proposal provides for universal coverage in a way that decouples or takes the payment for health care away from the payroll tax and moves it to a more elastic funding base-that is to say, an income tax base. It's a variation on single payer, but that provides for the quality of care that we enjoy in this country to be maintained, and that provides for, if you will, a reenergizing of the relationship between patients and providers.”

**Remarks by Carol Moseley Braun  
*NewsHour, PBS*  
June 9, 2003**

**Question:** You have said in the past that all Americans should have health insurance through the government. That's a national health insurance. How do you pay for it?

**CAROL MOSELEY BRAUN:** The way that you get universal coverage is that you have a single-payer system.

And if you have a single-payer system, then you will be able to cover everybody. Everybody in this country already gets health care. If you fall out and you don't have insurance, somewhere you will be cared for. Probably in an emergency room.

It'll probably be the most expensive care you can get. And the cost will just get shifted throughout the system to other payers—many times, people pay for insurance through their employer. What I've proposed is a single-payer system that will take advantage of the fact that we are already paying 15 percent of our gross domestic product on health care, de-couple it from employment so that it's not a burden on job creation, it's not a burden on small businesses, and it doesn't come out of the payroll tax, which is the most regressive tax, to begin with. And with the revenue that we have from that, from that 15 percent, we can then afford a system much like the federal employees have under what's called FEHBP, a federal system in which you have a single payer but the administration takes place by the companies that individuals choose.

The most important part of this is that the physician or the provider and patient relationship has to be central to the health care system. Because if you do that, then you will have a dynamic in favor of quality of care and taking care of patients and people's illnesses—or wellness as well, frankly, because prevention is a big part of this. But you will have a dynamic in favor of quality that the current profit-driven system does not have.

We are wasting an awful lot of money on profit on the one hand and disconnects between the different public system on the one hand, private system on the other. We're wasting an awful lot of money that could be better put to provide us with a rationalized system, a single-payer system of health care for everybody.

**Remarks by Carol Moseley Braun**  
*Democratic National Committee Debate,*  
Albuquerque, NM September 4, 2003  
Single Payer Health Care

### **Quality of Care: Restoring Patient – Doctor Relationships**

“The truth is that doctors and nurses and providers of care should be the people making the decisions about how that care would be delivered as opposed to some bureaucrat sitting nowadays somewhere offshore somewhere, not even here—someone making a decision on behalf of an insurance company's bottom lines.”

**Remarks by Carol Moseley Braun**  
*Iowa Health Care Forum,* Hosted by Tom Vilsack, Iowa Governor  
Drake University, Des Moines, IA  
August 14, 2003