

# Medicare for All addresses racial inequities: Talk radio call-in sample scripts

*Radio call-in shows reach a **large and loyal audience**, especially locally, and represent a great opportunity to advocate for single-payer reform. Consider calling in during a general news discussion segment, or during a segment dedicated to health care. **Keep your initial comment short** (the host may cut you off) but be prepared to engage further if given the opportunity.*



## General message

Hi, I'm really concerned about the way our health care system treats minority patients. If you're Black or Brown in America, you're more likely to be uninsured, and you're more likely to live in a community that doesn't have adequate medical facilities. Public coverage helps a lot of people, and that's why I think we need Medicare for All, to cover everybody and to make sure we invest in communities that have been left behind.

## Message as a physician

Hi, I'm Doctor [NAME] and I wanted to let your listeners know that people in the medical profession are outraged by the way our system treats Black and Brown patients. We see too many minority patients suffering needlessly or dying young because they don't have adequate health coverage. Existing public programs do help, but what we really need is Medicare for All, which would improve coverage for everybody.

## Additional discussion points

- Racism is a big problem in American medicine, and in our broader society, but making sure everybody is covered is a necessary first step.
- People of color live shorter lives, and endure more needless suffering from preventable illness compared to their white counterparts.
- Medicaid expansion has provided health coverage for millions of people, but most of the states that have not expanded Medicaid are in the south, and have large Black populations.
- Maternal and infant mortality is especially high among Black Americans, with Black mothers more than three times as likely to die from pregnancy-related complications compared to white mothers.
- Undocumented immigrants make up a large percentage of the uninsured, despite paying taxes. Many undocumented immigrants even care for patients as home health care workers, but have no coverage themselves.
- Racism takes a toll on patients' health. In recent years, premature births have spiked among Latinas, which correlates with a rise in nativist sentiment and anti-immigrant policies and rhetoric.
- We need more people of color practicing medicine in the U.S. Corporations are indifferent to this need, but a Medicare for All system could institute policies to diversify our health care workforce.
- A national health program could build new hospitals and clinics in under-served minority communities. The corporations that dominate health care today have no incentive to build or maintain these facilities.