

# Medicare for All and our rural health crisis: 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 health care in rural America. People who live in small towns like [NAME] are suffering and dying from treatable diseases, either because they don't have health insurance or because their hospitals are closing up shop. If we had Medicare for All, struggling hospitals could keep their doors open and we could make sure nobody was left behind, no matter where they live.

## Message as a physician

Hi, I'm Doctor [NAME] and I'm really concerned about patients in rural America. The corporations that control health care want to make as much money as possible, and they've been neglecting rural communities. That means patients aren't getting treated for serious medical conditions, and many of them are dying far too young. What we need is Medicare for All, which would cover every single American, no matter where they live.

## Additional discussion points

- If possible, comment on a specific rural community that you, a patient, or a family member is familiar with, as opposed to the more general "rural America."
- Remote Area Medical clinics demonstrate the urgent need for health care services in small towns. Patients line up by the thousands for days in order to seek care.
- Many of the health problems that are plaguing rural America could be addressed with regular care. Medicare for All would lead to longer, healthier lives.
- Rural communities are struggling economically because of neglect, population loss, and a lack of investment. The health care crisis compounds these struggles.
- Our *current* financing system requires hospitals to seek out a high volume of privately insured patients, which puts rural communities at a disadvantage.
- More than 100 rural hospitals have closed over the last 10 years. It is the *status quo* that is wreaking havoc on rural communities.
- Rural hospitals have been much less likely to close in states that expanded Medicaid. Medicare for All would extend even more of a lifeline to these facilities.
- Global budgets would help hospitals keep their doors open by providing predictable quarterly revenue based on community medical need.