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March 23, 2018

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

On behalf of the three million members of the National Education Association and the 50 million students they serve, we would like to express our support for the goals of the Medicare for All Act of 2017 (S. 1804). NEA believes every American has a right to comprehensive, affordable health coverage that encompasses not just physician and hospital services, but prescription drugs, mental health care, and vision and dental services.

While the incomes of all but the super-rich have remained stagnant, health insurance premiums and out-of-pocket costs have soared, making high-quality coverage unaffordable for many poor and middle-class American children and families. To address this problem, your legislation would mandate universal coverage and provide publicly financed, privately delivered health care for U.S. residents regardless of age, race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, and disability or health status, including pregnancy and related medical conditions.

We applaud your vision of a single-payer system that guarantees all American children and adults access to comprehensive, affordable health care — a goal we have long sought. We applaud your vision of a single-payer system that guarantees all American children and adults access to comprehensive, affordable health care — a goal we have long sought. At the same time, as this issue progresses we would like to work with you to ensure that working people are able to maintain comprehensive and affordable health benefits without additional out-of-pocket costs, including the ability to bargain for benefits above any established floor or limit while preserving the existing tax exclusion.

We thank you for your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you to help make universal health coverage a reality.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan

Director of Government Relations
National Education Association