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April 16, 2019

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 (S. 1129). 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 appreciate your acknowledgment that the Medicare for All Act (S. 1129) will not eliminate or diminish existing school-related health programs, centers, initiatives, services, or other activities or work supported by Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). As the bill progresses, we look forward to working with you to ensure this remains the case and to ensure that working people can maintain comprehensive, affordable health benefits without additional out-of-pocket costs, including the ability to obtain benefits above any established floor or limit and 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