

<u>AD TEXT:</u>	<u>DOCUMENTATION:</u>
<p>Why is Mary Landrieu opposing the President’s plan to provide health care choices for all Americans, including the option to join a high quality public health insurance plan? Is it:</p>	<p>After sending a letter announcing her support for a public plan to Health Care for American Now (http://big.assets.huffingtonpost.com/LandrieuLtr.pdf), on June 9th, Senator Landrieu said "I am not open to a public option, however I will remain open to a compromise - a full compromise," Landrieu told reporters Tuesday. "A public option is not something I support. I don't think it's the right way to go." (Politico, 6/9/09, http://www.politico.com/blogs/glennthrush/0609/Landrieu_nixes_public_option.htm)</p>
<p>A. Because Americans trust the private insurance industry?</p>	<p>According to a recent Gallup poll, only 35 percent of Americans believe that the health insurance companies would recommend the right thing for reforming the healthcare system. (Gallup, 6/17/09, http://www.gallup.com/poll/120890/Healthcare-Americans-Trust-Physicians-Politicians.aspx)</p>
<p>B. Because we don't want high-quality, lower cost care?</p>	<p>According to a recent Associated Press poll, nearly one in four Americans are concerned about losing their health care coverage in the next year and 46 percent of Americans are worried they will not be able to afford health care in the future. Also according to the poll, approximately one in four Americans said that they or a family member delayed seeing a doctor in the past year because of what it might cost. (Associated Press, 6/18/09, http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gSXIViw_RWvU3uweKkhKfhAVGggdD98SUF1O0)</p>
<p>Or</p>	
<p>C. Because our health care system works just fine as it is?</p>	<p>The number of uninsured people in America has risen to nearly 46 million, according to the most recent government data available. U.S. Census, August, 2008 (http://www.census.gov/prod/2008pubs/p60-235.pdf)</p>
	<p>Nationwide, average costs paid by an employee for an individual health insurance premium have risen nearly eight times faster than average U.S. incomes. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation</p>

Of course not. It's none of the above. But she did receive \$1.6 million in campaign contributions from the health care industry - the same industry that's now spending millions to stop the president's plan.

Report, March 2009

(http://covertheuninsured.org/files/u15/State_by_State_Analysis_2009.pdf)

In February, the government estimated that health care costs this year would average \$8,160 for every person in the U.S. — an increase of \$356 per person from 2008. Associated Press, 6/18/09 (http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gSXIViw_RWvU3uweKkhKfhAVGgqgD98SUF1O0)

Throughout her career, Mary Landrieu has raised \$1,668,693 from health insurance and health care interests, broken down by "health professionals" (\$607,616), "Insurance" \$401,731, "Hospitals/Nursing Homes" \$269,645, "Pharmaceuticals/Health Products" \$224,696 and "Health Services/HMOs" (\$165,005). Huffington Post, 6/9/09, (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/06/09/signer-d-letter-from-landrieu_213447.html)

USA Today reported that: "The largest medical insurers and drug companies spent 41% more on lobbying this year as Congress began debate on an overhaul of health care, which may include a public insurance plan the industries oppose. Despite an overall decline in lobbyist spending this year, a USA TODAY review of disclosure reports found 20 of the largest health insurance and drug companies and their trade groups spent nearly \$35 million in the first quarter of 2009, up more than \$10 million from the same period last year." USA Today, 6/18/09, (http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/health/2009-06-11-lobby_N.htm)

The five largest private insurers and the trade group America's Health Insurance Plans spent a total of \$6.4 million in the first quarter, an increase of more than \$1 million from the same quarter last year. The industry is working to counter proposals endorsed by the White House that would offer a government health insurance option for millions of Americans. Fox News, 6/11/09 (<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2009/06/11/lobbyists-spend-millions-fighting-obama-universal-health-care-plan/>)

Call Mary Landrieu at 202-224-5824 and tell her you want high quality, affordable health care choices. Tell her to support a public health insurance option.

Conservatives for Patients' Rights (CPR), led by Rick Scott, a leading critic of Obama's health care plan, and former hospital CEO whose health company was accused of fraud, plans to spend nearly \$20 million to fight the president's attempts at health care reform. The Nation, 3/11/09 (<http://www.thenation.com/doc/20090330/hayes>)