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Health care priorities of the 2020 Democratic candidates


































































































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About half of the 2020 Democratic presidential candidates have qualified to participate in the Dec. 19 Democratic debate in Los Angeles and most share similar views on key health care issues.

Democrats have typically favored increasing federal government involvement to help contain rising drug prices for consumers and have called for the federal insurance program Medicare to directly negotiate drug prices. Democratic presidential candidates support this view along with revocation of branded drug patents to allow for more production of cheaper generic medications. Another shared platform priority is aligning U.S. drug prices to prices paid in other nations.

The most progressive candidates vying for the White House say the government should also provide health insurance for all Americans and immigrants through a “Medicare for All” system that would replace the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, which extended health coverage to about 20 million previously uninsured Americans.

More than half of all Democratic candidates running for president have said a decision about abortion should be up to the woman and without government restrictions, but some would consider certain limits on abortions later in pregnancy.

Policy positions of candidates	Candidates participating in the Dec. 19 Democratic debate Have met fundraising and polling thresholds required to attend							Candidates not participating in the debate Unable to meet fundraising and polling thresholds							
															
	Joe Biden	Pete Buttigieg	Amy Klobuchar	Bernie Sanders	Tom Steyer	Elizabeth Warren	Andrew Yang	Michael Bennet	Michael Bloomberg	Cory Booker	Julián Castro	John Delaney	Tulsi Gabbard	Deval Patrick	Marianne Williamson
DRUG COSTS															
Negotiate Medicare drug prices															
Align prices with lower prices paid by other nations (International reference pricing)															
Break brand drug patents to promote generic drug production															
Allow U.S. government to manufacture generic drugs															
Prohibit drug prices from increasing more than the inflation rate															
MEDICARE FOR ALL															
Oppose Medicare for All plan but favor making a government plan available while allowing people to keep private insurance															
Support Medicare for All, in which government pays fully for all services and procedures and eliminates private plans															
Support Medicare for All but would keep option of private insurance															
Support Medicare for All but would accept a more moderate system where government-run health insurance plans compete with private insurers															
OBAMACARE/COVERAGE EXPANSION															
Support replacing Obamacare with a universal health care option that is not the Medicare for All plan															
Support keeping and improving Obamacare															
Support replacing Obamacare with Medicare for All plan															
ABORTION															
Oppose abortion restrictions															
Support some limits regarding abortion late in pregnancy															
Support abortion rights but have not indicated if there should be limits															

Sources: POLITICO staff reports, Democratic National Committee, Ballotpedia, New York Times, candidate websites and press offices