

Bates College

SCARAB

Congressional Records

Edmund S. Muskie Papers

1-26-1971

Press Release - Muskie Urges Passage of National Health Insurance

Edmund S. Muskie

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scarab.bates.edu/mcr>

MUSKIE

Maine

(202) 225-5344

FOR RELEASE

3 P.M. (PST)

6 P.M. (EST)

Tuesday, January 26, 1971

MUSKIE URGES PASSAGE OF NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) called today for early enactment of a program of National Health Insurance, coupled with a concerted effort by the government and the medical profession to reform America's national health care system.

In remarks prepared for the California Council on Health Plan Alternatives in San Mateo, California, Senator Muskie said that "...high quality medical care is a right, to which all Americans are entitled. It should not be treated as a privilege, available only to those who can pay the price."

The Senator said, "Private and public group insurance is no longer adequate to meet health care payment problems." He said that in the new Congress, he will again co-sponsor the Health Security Act, which would provide health insurance for every U.S. citizen.

However, Senator Muskie stressed that such an insurance program is not the answer to all our health problems.

"Simply adding a new financing mechanism," he said, "cannot do the job which needs to be done, in reshaping and revitalizing our entire health care system. We need something more than national health insurance. We need a concerted effort--by the government and by the medical profession itself--to expand our supply of health care manpower, and to find ways of delivering the benefits of our medical research to every American."

Senator Muskie called upon the medical professions to provide for faster entry into the health professions and to give more encouragement to those wishing to become general practitioners. If the medical profession does not actively participate in our health system's reform, he said, "we will be faced with a growing demand for government control of the delivery of health services."

At the same time, the Senator criticized the federal government's record of leadership in health care during the past two years, saying the government's "negative attitudes" must be reversed and a more "positive program" adopted. He supported more federal aid to medical schools, greater use of paramedical personnel, more health service for rural areas and the establishment of a National Health Service Corps.