

# THE HEARTLANDER

## Heartland's 2020 Vision



By Frank Lasée  
President

Happy New Year! Without a doubt, 2020 is going to be an interesting year, with an important presidential election just 11 months away. **Looking back, 2019 was a banner year for freedom advocates.** At the federal, state, and local levels, personal liberty and limited government continue to prevail over statist, socialist policies.

However, **those on the extreme Left—including a bevy of presidential contenders—are not standing pat and allowing freedom to flourish.** Truth be told, there is a concerted effort underway to undermine freedom while growing government to a level unforeseen in American history. In 2019, we witnessed policy nightmares courtesy of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's (D-NY) Green New Deal and Sen. Elizabeth Warren's (D-MA) Medicare for All plans, among several others.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I am betting 2020 will be full of more wrongheaded policies to expand government control—regardless of the enormous costs and negative consequences. In many ways, **America is at a crossroads. Will our nation embrace a European-style welfare state**, complete with cradle-to-grave entitlements and the taxes that go with them? **Or will Americans demand more freedom** in the form of less taxes, more school choice, and less oversight from Washington, DC bureaucrats? I am hopeful the latter will triumph.

In the years ahead, as we have done for decades, **Heartland will continue to promote commonsense solutions to the problems that plague society.** We will support government that works for the best interests of the American people, promotes freedom, protects the weak from the strong, promotes energy independence, a robust economy, and environmental stewardship. In the same vein, we will oppose policies that deter innovation, entrepreneurship, freedom, personal responsibility, or unnecessarily grow government. We will remain focused on climate realism, while proposing energy and environmental policies that keep costs low for all Americans, enhance the economy, and protect our environment.

**To increase our effectiveness, Heartland is embarking on a plan to expand our influence via social media and other new platforms,** because we are not only in the business of informing legislators. To maximize our impact, we must reach out to all involved in the policymaking process, **especially voters—the ultimate deciders of all things political.**

Of course, we are fighting an uphill battle. For years, the far Left has dominated

the media and academia, propelling a false narrative that more government control is always good. Even worse, this fallacy has seeped into the popular culture and is constantly promoted by powerful institutions, namely Hollywood and “woke” corporations.

However, despite this, **we at Heartland are dedicated more than ever to our mission of promoting free-market solutions to social and economic problems.** In 2020, we are ready to hit the ground running in several policy areas.

For example, on health care we will continue to advocate for more consumer choice. Our outstanding health care experts will be very busy **promoting Heartland’s Free to Choose Medicine project**, CON law reforms, and greater access to health savings accounts.

In the education field, Heartland’s Center for Education Opportunities is already busy advocating for more school choice via education savings accounts and child safety accounts for students who are trapped in unsafe (and underperforming) government schools. We will also promote viable alternative tracks to the overpriced degrees at colleges and universities that burden young Americans with crushing debt while ill-preparing them for the rigors of the workplace. **To combat the so-called “college debt crisis,” we believe students would be better off having multiple career education tracks available to them during and after high school.**

Of course, our main focus will remain on contesting the climate delusion. Heartland’s Arthur B. Robinson Center on Climate and Environmental Policy has **an expanded staff that is more than ready to push back against the so-called global warming consensus.** To achieve this, we are launching several new initiatives aimed at informing the general public about

**To increase our effectiveness, Heartland is embarking on a plan to expand our influence via social media and other new platforms.**

**“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.”**

- Ronald Reagan



the extreme Left’s plan to use global warming fearmongering as a means to vastly expand government control. Not to mention that this would also lead to huge tax increases and a boatload of regulations that would choke our thriving economy. We are laser-focused on combatting the climate delusion.

Along with our activities in health care, education, and the environment, Heartland is also dedicated to commonsense economics. We will continue to oppose unnecessary taxes and burdensome regulations that kill jobs and redistribute income from productive endeavors to economic black holes. High taxes and stifling regulations do not improve circumstances for hard-working Americans. On the contrary, they cater to the wants and whims of bureaucrats and special interest groups. That is why we adamantly oppose these foolish policies.

**As the new president of The Heartland Institute, I am glad to carry the torch of liberty into the dawn of a new decade.**

As the new president of The Heartland Institute, I am glad to carry the torch of liberty into the dawn of a new decade. Please join us on our journey to fulfill Heartland’s mission to discover, develop, and promote free-market solutions to social and economic problems.

**Former President Ronald Reagan once said,** “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.”

With my leadership, we at The Heartland Institute will do everything in our power to ensure that the United States remains as free as ever, for generations to come.

The Heartland Institute is an independent source of research and commentary founded in Chicago, Illinois in 1984. It is not affiliated with any political party, business, or foundation. Its activities are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Heartland’s mission is to discover, develop, and promote free-market solutions to social and economic problems. Such solutions include parental choice in education, market-based approaches to environmental protection and health care finance, tax and spending limitation, and deregulation in areas where property rights and markets do a better job than government bureaucracies.

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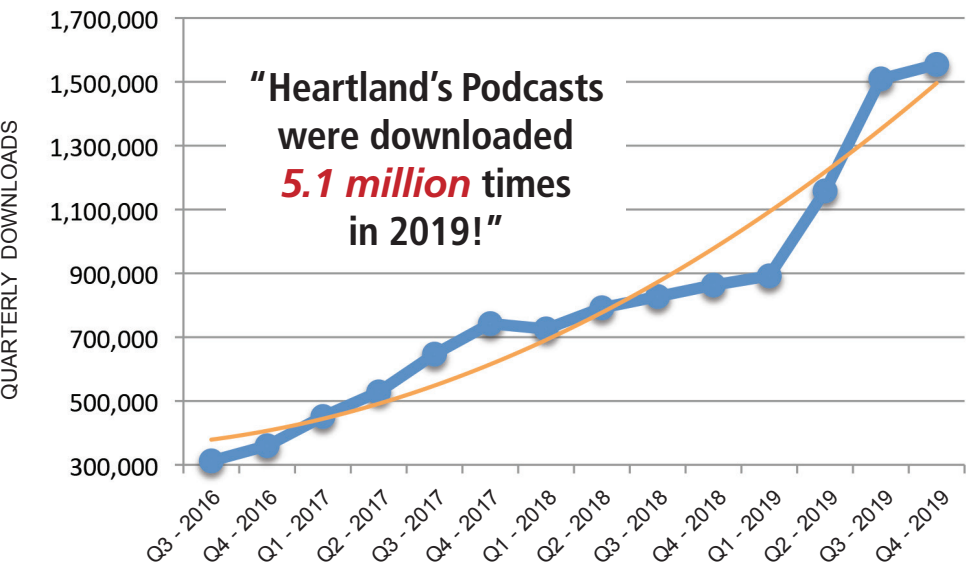
# HEARTLAND: BY THE NUMBERS

During the fourth quarter of 2019, The Heartland Institute...

- ▶ Published **six** print and digital monthly issues of *Budget & Tax News*, *Environment & Climate News*, and *Health Care News*.
- ▶ Produced **36** *Research & Commentaries* addressing issues in all **50** states.
- ▶ Testified or submitted comments two times in **one** state.
- ▶ Contacted elected officials **241,565** times, including **10,121** one-on-one contacts by phone, mail, email, or in person.
- ▶ Generated at least **98** broadcast, **474** online, and **112** print media hits reaching more than **31.1 million** subscribers.
- ▶ Released **64** podcasts, attracting a total listening audience of **1 million** people, and added **139** blog posts to *Freedom Pub*.

- ▶ Added **67** videos to our YouTube channel, and videos on the channel attracted a total of **555,198** views.
- ▶ Garnered **427,802** impressions on our Facebook page.
- ▶ Achieved **461,691** impressions for our tweets.
- ▶ Hosted **four** events attended by **5,636** people, exhibited at **15** events attended by **13,500** people, and spoke at **six** events attended by **748** people.
- ▶ Published and distributed **four** *Policy Briefs* on topics such as school safety, socialism, and the Green New Deal.
- ▶ Published and distributed **four** *Policy Tip Sheets* on topics such as dental therapy, progressive taxes, and vaping flavor bans.
- ▶ Released **34** issues of our weekly e-newsletters: *Climate Change Weekly*, *Heartland Weekly*, and *The Leaflet*.

## PODCAST TRAFFIC BY QUARTER







Heartland podcasts continued to roll strong into the fourth and final quarter of 2019 with a stunning 1,554,384 downloads.

### Highlights:

The *Budget & Tax News Podcast* was downloaded 132,593 times. A highlight from this quarter was a discussion by Research Director Edward Hudgins with CareerWise CEO Noel Ginsburg on the need for more technical education in the United States. Other guests included Michael Strong, head of the Radical Social Entrepreneurs group, and Heartland Institute Editor Chris Talgo discussing the myth of Scandinavian socialism.

The *Environment & Climate News Podcast*, hosted by both Senior Fellow and *Environment & Climate News* Managing Editor H. Sterling Burnett and Senior Fellow Anthony Watts was downloaded 390,858 times. Highlights from this quarter include an interview with Steve McIntyre, founder of Climate Audit; and German YouTuber and climate realist Naomi Seibt, who counters climate alarmist and child-star Greta Thunberg.

The *Health Care News Podcast*, hosted by both Research Fellow and *Health Care News* Managing Editor AnneMarie Schieber and Policy Advisor Sarah Lee, was downloaded 248,055 times. A highlight from this quarter is an interview with Naomi Lopez-Bauman, a health care scholar with the Goldwater Institute and the Beacon Center, on the battle over Medicaid expansion.

The *Voices of Vapers Podcast* is hosted by State Government Relations Manager Lindsey Stroud. It was downloaded 47,546 times. Highlights include an interview with the Mississippi Vaping Advocacy Association's Bill Wikstrom who discussed the impact of vaping on the 2019 Mississippi gubernatorial race. Other guests included Vapor 906 owner Marc Sils and YouTuber and designer Matt Culley.

The *School Reform News Podcast* was downloaded 94,378 times this quarter. A highlight includes an interview with Congressman Jim Banks (R-IN) about his plans to make Washington, DC schools safer with Child Safety Accounts, an idea originated at The Heartland Institute. Other guests included President and CEO of Classic Learning Test Jeremy Tate; and Keith Nix, head of the Veritas School in Richmond, Virginia.

Heartland's *In the Tank Podcast*, hosted by Donald Kendal, Justin Haskins, and Jim Lakely and featuring Policy Advisor Isaac Orr, was downloaded 199,984 times. It is released every Friday and features a discussion of the week's most-important policy news, as well as work from think tanks across the country. This quarter, *In The Tank* featured work from the The Heartland Institute, The Heritage Foundation, the Cato Institute, the Mises Institute, and other leading think tanks. The podcast also covered "cancel culture," global warming, the 2019 Democratic debates, and even the pop-culture phenomenon that is Baby Yoda.





ARTHUR B. ROBINSON CENTER ON  
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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**The  
Detroit  
News**

# GREEN ENERGY WILL GUT MORE THAN THE OIL MARKET

**By Peter J. Ferrara**

Oil workers are not the only people who will lose their jobs if we try to replace fossil fuels with so-called “green energy.” Coal miners, pipe layers, natural gas workers and people in related industries will also suffer. But it will go much deeper than that.

American blue-collar workers in manufacturing jobs, who have been enjoying a historic boom under President Trump, will likely lose their jobs due to higher energy prices and manufacturing costs. Manufacturing is energy intensive. That means low-cost, reliable energy is essential to manufacturing and blue-collar jobs.

Germany tried to replace fossil fuels with green energy primarily involving wind and solar power. As a result, electricity costs soared in Germany, for businesses and consumers. German households pay three times as much for each unit of electricity as U.S. households pay. German businesses

pay among the highest costs in the world. Imagine your monthly electricity bill three times higher than what it currently is!

Denmark also suffered high electricity costs when the nation attempted to replace fossil fuels with green energy.

In America, California has higher electricity costs than the rest of the nation because of wind and solar mania. It is effectively another tax increase, draining money away from household budgets and decreasing living standards.

As Robert Bryce explains in his insightful book, “Power Hungry: The Myths of ‘Green’ Energy and the Real Fuels of the Future”: “We use hydrocarbons [fossil fuels] – coal, oil, and natural gas – not because we like them, but because they produce lots of heat energy, from small spaces, at prices we can afford, and in the quantities that we demand.” He adds, “The energy business is ruthlessly policed by the Four Imperatives: power density, energy density, cost and scale.”

Fossil fuels have high energy density, which means they produce large amounts of usable energy from comparatively small amounts of fuel, much more than can be found blowing in the wind or dancing on



**Peter J. Ferrara**  
Senior Fellow  
The Heartland Institute

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**“In America, California has higher electricity costs than the rest of the nation because of wind and solar mania. It is effectively another tax increase, draining money away from household budgets and decreasing living standards.”**

sunbeams. That is most fundamentally why green energy costs so much more than fossil fuels.

Moreover, the sun doesn't always shine, and the wind doesn't always blow. But the electric grid requires a consistent flow of electricity. That is why wind and solar energy require backup from fossil fuels. That required backup energy adds to the effective costs of wind and solar. It also means that “alternative energy” is not a real alternative to fossil fuels.

Under President Trump's energy deregulation, America is now the world's top producer of oil and natural gas. The United States also has the resources to be the world's No. 1 producer of coal.

Abundant, low-cost, reliable energy provides American manufacturing with a decisive cost advantage over Germany and the rest of Europe, and over Japan and other East Asian competitors.

Affordable energy brings real benefits that significantly improve people's lives. More than 6 million jobs have been created during this boom, with unemployment among blacks, Hispanics, Asians and youth already the lowest ever measured in American history.

The blue-collar boom has also created \$12 trillion in wealth for Americans since Trump's election, primarily through the skyrocketing stock market that began on

► Published two issues of *Environment & Climate News*, eight issues of *Climate Change Weekly*, two *Policy Briefs*, and five *Research & Commentaries* on environment and energy issues.

► Logged 821 personal and 37,222 group contacts for a total of 38,043 contacts on environment and energy issues.

► Generated at least 70 broadcast, 346 online, and 54 print media hits reaching approximately 17.6 million people on environment and energy issues.

► Produced 14 new podcasts, attracting 390,858 listeners, and 49 new posts on Freedom Pub addressing energy, environment, and climate issues.

Election Day 2016. The expectation of this boom was a primary reason Trump won in 2016, as blue-collar workers, the original core of the Democratic Party, flipped Republican in Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Democrats are committing a historic political blunder running in 2020 on reversing one of the primary drivers of President Trump's blue-collar boom. Banning fossil fuels under the Green New Deal is a recipe for economic and political disaster.

*Peter J. Ferrara is a senior fellow at The Heartland Institute and at the National Tax Limitation Foundation. He is also the Dunn Liberty Fellow in Economics at Kings College in New York.*



CENTER ON  
BUDGETS AND TAXES

Originally Published at

THE  
EPOCH  
TIMES

Berlin Wall



## 30 YEARS AFTER FALL OF BERLIN WALL, LET'S TEAR DOWN WALL OF DOGMA THAT THWARTS OUR LIBERTY

**By Edward Hudgins**

On Nov. 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall fell as thousands of East Berliners celebrated their liberation from the giant communist prison camp.

Today, 36 percent of American millennials say they approve of communism, and 70 percent say they are likely to vote for socialism—the economic regime that impoverished all communist-ruled countries.

What happened?

After World War II, the United States, Great Britain, and France created the Federal Republic of Germany in the zones they occupied, replacing Nazi totalitarianism with democracy and personal and economic liberty. The Soviet Union, meanwhile, created in its zone the so-called German Democratic Republic, where it imposed communist totalitarianism.

Berlin, located 100 miles inside East Germany, also was divided into East and West zones. East Berliners naturally wanted to live free and prosper, but that posed a problem for the Soviets. By 1961, thousands of East Berliners were moving each day into West Berlin. To halt the mass exodus, the com-

munists of East Berlin built a wall to contain their subjects.

In 1981, I took the closed military train through East Germany to West Berlin. Armed communist guards along the track ensured no one took photos out the windows of the desolate countryside. In the center of Berlin, there was a double wall, with a “no man’s land” in between with guard towers, machine guns, and anti-tank barricades to keep the vassals of communism from fleeing.

Along the Western side of the wall, there were crosses marking the places where East Germans trying to escape had been gunned down in the no man’s land. In other parts of the city, where the barrier separating East from West was narrow, separated parents and children, relatives, and lifelong friends could stand and wave at one another from their sides of the wall, though they could never touch, hold hands, kiss, or enjoy lives with one another because of the cruelty of communism.

With my U.S. passport, I could enter East Berlin by going through the military Checkpoint Charlie. The East side was sterile, with few stores, nothing to buy, and bullet holes from World War II still visible in the buildings. After a few hours, I did what the prisoners in the East couldn’t do. I returned to the free side of Berlin.

The communists kept a close watch on their people, spying on them, eavesdropping



**Edward Hudgins**  
Research Director  
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on their conversations, and censoring dissenters. Those not loyal enough to the regime would be deprived of what little economic well-being they might have had. Under socialism, government elites determine who gets what; those who challenge the regime are imprisoned and tortured.

The communists censored information and tried to indoctrinate their subjects about how much better the East was than the West. In Berlin, the dogma didn't work. East Berliners could see the bright lights of *Kurfürstendamm*, the boulevard of restaurants, well-stocked shops, and exciting nightlife in the West—all denied to them by their overlords.

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy famously stood before the wall and declared, “*Ich bin ein Berliner*”—“I am a Berliner”—in solidarity with the city. In 1987, President Ronald Reagan challenged Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to “tear down this wall!”

The Soviet bloc finally collapsed because its socialist system of government control simply didn't work. It led to economic distortions, privations, and corruption. So how is it that today, Democrat presidential candidates openly declare themselves socialists and advocate the policies that so dramatically failed in the Soviet bloc? How could Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who honeymooned in the Soviet Union the year before the Berlin Wall and the system that built it collapsed, attract huge crowds, rather than the contempt and derision he deserves? And how can young people have favorable opinions of the system and the era?

Universities today are now dominated by rabid, anti-liberty apparatchiks who've indoctrinated a generation now in leadership positions in media, entertainment, politics, civic groups, religion, corporate boards, charities, and, of course, education. Many campuses censor those who dissent from leftist orthodoxy. Young people have been left in ignorance of the horrible history of communism. Through propaganda, both soft and hardcore, leftists have created a generation

► Published two issues of *Budget & Tax News*, 12 *Research & Commentaries*, two *Policy Tip Sheets*, and one *Policy Brief* on budget and tax and tobacco-related issues.

► Logged 1,105 personal and 129,270 group contacts for a total of 130,285 contacts with legislators on budget and tax and tobacco-related issues.

► Generated at least three broadcast, 37 online, and 14 print media hits reaching approximately 4.4 million people on budget and tax and tobacco-related issues.

► Produced 10 new podcasts, attracting 180,139 listeners, and 33 new posts on Freedom Pub on budget and tax and tobacco-related issues.

► Testified two times on budget and tax and tobacco-related issues.

that cheers Sanders and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.).

Leftists have erected a Berlin Wall in the minds of young people, imprisoning them in dogma. Libertarians, conservatives, liberals, and anyone who values liberty and prosperity should unite to “tear down this wall.” We should take the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall to remember, to think, to understand, and to fight for the values that define the civilized West.

*Edward Hudgins (ehudgins@heartland.org) is research director at The Heartland Institute. He worked on policies to help countries throw off their communist and socialist systems.*



# THE HEARTLAND INSTITUTE'S **NEW DONOR BENEFITS**

## **Dear Friend,**

Thank you for being a valuable supporter of The Heartland Institute. It's because of your generous support that we are so successful fighting for free-market solutions. As we push forward into 2020, we have enhanced our donor benefits.

If you've already given in 2019, great! We truly appreciate your increased loyalty, respect, and dedication to help us promote freedom.

For more information on how to support our mission of freedom at The Heartland Institute, please contact David Hoyt, our executive director of development. **Call 312/377-4000** or **email [dhoyt@heartland.org](mailto:dhoyt@heartland.org)**.

## **What level of giving is right for you?**

Please refer to the enclosed reply envelope for a detailed list of Heartland's new donor benefits.



**BY MAIL:** Complete and return the enclosed reply envelope. Mail your donation to **The Heartland Institute, 3939 North Wilke Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004**.

*Our federal tax identification number is 36-3309812.*



### **DONATE BY PHONE:**

Call 312/377-4000 and ask for David Hoyt or a staffer on Heartland's fundraising team.



### **GIVE ONLINE:** [heartland.org/donate](https://heartland.org/donate)

Explore all the ways to give and contribute to the work of The Heartland Institute.



**DONATE MONTHLY:** Monthly giving is the easiest and most efficient way to support Heartland. You can easily start, change, or stop your gift at any time online or by phone. Visit [Heartland.org/donate](https://Heartland.org/donate) or contact the fundraising team at 312/377-4000 to set up your monthly giving account.



**DONATING IRA DISTRIBUTION:** If you are the owner of a traditional or beneficiary IRA and are over 70.5 years of age, you can make a qualified charitable distribution up to \$100,000 per person. For more information on how you can do this, please contact David Hoyt.

# FREE TO CHOOSE MEDICINE

## Better Prescription Drugs, Faster, and Lower-Priced

The public is demanding reform of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) drug-approval process. A poll commissioned by **The Heartland Institute found 95 percent of Americans favor patients and their doctors making health care decisions, rather than the government.** The current FDA process for certifying the safety and efficacy of new drugs is prolonged, convoluted, and expensive. The Heartland Institute's poll found health care is the number-one issue for voters across the entire political spectrum.

**The Free to Choose Medicine (FTCM) policy proposal offers a solution to the lengthy and costly drug approval process, which now takes on average 12 years and costs \$2.9 billion.** FTCM has two complementary goals: to deliver life-enhancing, life-saving drugs and therapies to patients sooner and at a lower cost.

The goal of FTCM is to forge an alternative, innovative path around FDA's antiquated drug-approval process. Few people realize this has already been accomplished by FDA in a limited form. In the 1990s, FDA allowed early access to promising HIV/AIDS drugs. FTCM extends this precedent to treatments that have passed FDA's Phase I safety tests and at least one Phase II efficacy test.

The Heartland Institute continues to meet with and brief congressional repre-

sentatives and their staff on Capitol Hill, senior FDA officials, and key White House leaders. Because of this outreach, members of Congress have sent letters to FDA in support of FTCM.

In June, The Heartland Institute supported an initiative in the North Carolina General Assembly to pass HB 934, which would expand Right to Try (RTT) legislation in the state. RTT would allow all patients, not only those who are terminally ill, to access potentially lifesaving treatments. This legislation would also protect doctors who choose to prescribe treatments that could potentially reduce patients' pain and suffering.

The Heartland Institute is working directly with patient advocacy groups and other free-market organizations to craft messaging on drug approval reform. Our coalition of 16 organizations, which represent millions of Americans, sent a letter in support of FTCM to President Trump in July.

As drug prices have continued to rise, the Left has proposed more government control of drug pricing and health insurance. FTCM would take the opposite approach, addressing the root of the problem by utilizing free-enterprise principles and improving patient freedom. FTCM would result in the development of higher-quality drugs that would be available sooner and at lower cost.

**TOGETHER,  
WE CAN  
SAVE  
LIVES!**

Everyone knows someone who can benefit from FTCM and faster, more affordable access to breakthrough therapies.

Interested in learning more or helping with this landmark effort? Please email Christina Herrin at [cherrin@heartland.org](mailto:cherrin@heartland.org) or visit our website [freetochoosemedicine.com](http://freetochoosemedicine.com) and click "Join the Fight."



## CONSUMERS FOR HEALTH CARE CHOICES

Originally Published at

**INSIDESOURCES**<sup>™</sup>

# Attacks on Direct Primary Care Show How Government Is Steamrolling Our Lives

**By AnneMarie Schieber**

With every week that passes, another direct primary care (DPC) practice opens its doors. There is no denying DPC is hot, not just for consumers looking for more than a brief visit with a doctor, but with primary care physicians, too, who are burning out by the day from low reimbursements and administrative headaches from the third-party payers.

DPC is a membership-based payment model that works outside insurance. Consumers pay an affordable monthly fee, usually \$50 to \$100 per month, in exchange for specified primary care services like doctor's visits and medical tests. Under DPC models, many patients often have greater access to and more time with their doctor. The care is often so good, in fact, consumers find they do not have to make trips into the office as often.

DPC has been a saving grace for "self-payers"—people who no longer find value in the plans in the individual insurance market—and people with employer plans who pay high out-of-pocket fees because they never reach their deductibles.

Direct care is disrupting the health insurance and health care markets, and there is no better sign of that than the growing voice of detractors who think that when it comes to health care, they know best. These complaints demonstrate the pervasive paternalism that is built into the nation's current health care system. Consumers can fend for themselves in many other area—housing, food, transportation, education—but when it comes to

health care, government is steamrolling our lives. And that problem might soon get much worse. Calls for single-payer, "Medicare for All" plans—or its backdoor alternative, the "public-option"—would ultimately give government total control over health care.

Those voicing opposition to DPC are in favor of more government intrusion in health care, but not based upon any objective data or reasonable argumentation.

Consider, for example, their commonly used argument "DPC promotes inequality in health care." This notion presumes not everyone can afford to pay \$50 to \$100 per month in out-of-pocket fees for health care. This argument can't possibly refer to the destitute, because currently, their health care needs are met through government programs.

It can only be presumed, then, that naysayers are referring to the middle class when they protest in the name of "health care inequality." But many middle-class families already spend thousands upon thousands of dollars every year on health care. By cutting out the health care middlemen (insurance companies) and bloated government bureaucracies, DPC practices would help lower primary care costs, not increase them.

DPC costs families typically no more than \$1,500 a year, and individuals pay much less. If that is such a large amount, why aren't detractors speaking up about costs for a family vacation or cable and cell phone services? Why did the Obama administration sell such costs as "affordable" when they imposed Obamacare on the nation?

## FOURTH QUARTER STATISTICS ABOUT THE CENTER

The primary issue here, we see, is that health care is considered by many to be a government responsibility. This isn't about health care costs.

Detractors also warn that consumers fail to understand that DPC is not insurance, though there is no evidence that consumers are being duped. Many understand that DPC does not cover hospitalization and specialty care. DPC patients are always encouraged to buy a catastrophic health insurance plan to cover those costs.

Although it's true that because of government regulations, some consumers have trouble finding catastrophic health insurance plans, that problem could easily be fixed by rolling back government regulations. And even if that doesn't occur, many consumers enrolled in DPC have found alternatives like health care sharing ministries to help cover catastrophic costs.

Additionally, DPC members are able to save more money for future costly health care expenses because they often receive discounts on prescription drugs, imaging, and lab work as a benefit of enrolling in their DPC plan. These are services that cost people who have health insurance out-of-pocket money.

Probably the most laughable complaint against DPC is that it offers "no consumer protection." What better protection is there than simply to walk away with your money? There are no contracts with DPC. Members typically can leave any time with no financial strings attached. It is hard to find such freedom with gyms and cell phone companies!

DPC naysayers have one last assault, which is to question the need for consumers to have primary care "24 hours a day." This presumes that members are going to be running to the doctor any hour of the day simply because they are paying for it. Yet DPC members pay month-to-month because they want an ongoing relationship with a provider. Consumers often find value in DPC because they don't need to see the doctor all the time. The kind of attention they receive keeps them

► Published two issues of *Health Care News*, 13 *Research & Commentaries*, and two *Policy Tip Sheets* on health care issues.

► Logged 574 personal and 46,276 group contacts for a total of 46,850 contacts on health care issues.

► Generated 25 online, and 11 print media hits reaching more than 2 million people on health care issues.

► Produced 21 new podcasts, attracting 248,055 listeners, and 13 new posts on Freedom Pub on health care issues.

from getting sick. And, of course, there are urgent care clinics and other 24/7 options available in many parts of the country for those rare occasions when a primary care visit is needed immediately.

It is time to put to rest the idea that consumers can't figure out their own health care and pay for it as they see fit. The nation has seen the results of policies that promote growing government intrusion in health care—unaffordable premiums and limited time with a doctor. DPC reverses course, restoring the idea that when it comes to health care, the consumer, not government or insurance companies, is king.

*AnneMarie Schieber is managing editor of Health Care News and research fellow at The Heartland Institute.*



**AnneMarie Schieber**  
Managing Editor  
*Health Care News*  
The Heartland Institute





## CENTER FOR EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Originally Published at

**THE  
DAILY  
CALLER**

# American Students Are Failing; *You Can Thank Public Schools*



**By Teresa Mull**

New standardized test scores have been released, and U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos called the results of the federally mandated National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) exam “devastating.”

“For the third time in a row since Common Core was fully phased in nationwide, U.S. student test scores on the nation’s broadest and most respected test have dropped, a reversal of an upward trend between 1990 and 2015,” reports Joy Pullmann of *The Federalist*. “Further, the class of 2019, the first to experience all four high school years under Common Core, is the worst-prepared for college in 15 years, according to a new report.”

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are a set of national academic standards dictating what students should know at the end of each grade level. Common Core was, as Pullmann notes, “implement-

ed starting in 2010 without approval from nearly any legislative body and over waves of bipartisan citizen protests.”

Now, DeVos announced (and the test scores show), “This country is in a student achievement crisis, and over the past decade it has continued to worsen, especially for our most vulnerable students. Two out of three of our nation’s children aren’t proficient readers. In fact, fourth grade reading declined in 17 states, and eighth grade reading declined in 31.”

Common Core’s failure has been so epic that even Diane Ravitch, notorious government school champion and school choice opponent, declared in *The New York Times* that “The Common Core Costs Billions and Hurts Students.” The Gates Foundation, too, which served as an initial financial backer of the standards, admitted the implementation of CCSS did not go as planned.

So now what? We have “devastating” proof that our nation’s children are increasingly ill-prepared for college and life outside of their local government school classroom. While several states have made moves to repeal CCSS, most have simply rebranded the toxic standards to sweep the



**Teresa Mull**  
Research Fellow  
The Heartland Institute



## FOURTH QUARTER STATISTICS ABOUT THE CENTER

**“The United States used to be a leader in education and should be again. It will never lead as long as we have Common Core. We are better than this.”**

real problem under the rug—the problem being a one-size-fits-all method of teaching students, each one with varying needs and skills, can never be successful.

Government bureaucrats, however, despite overwhelming evidence showing how disastrous CCSS has been, will never admit the system is flawed. Believing that a big government program will solve our nation’s problems is a prerequisite to be a government bureaucrat. A contrary admittance would fly in the face of what they’ve built their careers and entire lives around, regardless of whether acknowledging the virtues of an alternative system would mean higher test scores and more successful and happier lives for our nation’s children and our nation as a whole.

The silver lining in all of this is that even though too many government officials couldn’t care less about the well-being of our children, their parents care a great deal. Parents want their children to learn, be safe, happy, and successful, and when they realize a public school education, where CCSS is mandated, is not serving their children, they will seek to have their children educated elsewhere. Parents want a choice in where and how their children are educated. Children want options, too. If the whacky way in which Common Core forces teachers to teach math isn’t working for a child, that child’s parent should have the ability to find an alternative method that does work. School choice, unlike CCSS, is simple, and, also unlike CCSS, it works.

The NAEP results show government

► Published six *Research & Commentaries* and one *Policy Brief* on education issues.

► Logged 8,384 personal and 18,003 group contacts for a total of 26,387 contacts with legislators on education issues.

► Generated at least one broadcast, 15 online, and 12 print media hits reaching more than 626,000 people on education issues.

► Produced six new podcasts, attracting 94,378 listeners to our education podcasts, and posted 17 new articles on Freedom Pub on education issues.

mandates on the education system are counterproductive. Our children are failing, and our country will pay the ultimate price for the federal scheme to take away the local control of curriculum.

After this massive failure, our nation must end this federal boondoggle that has cost billions and harmed our children. Perhaps it is time to end the meddling of the federal department of education and put the states back in charge. This is another case of the federal government overstepping its place.

Let the states be laboratories of change. Take what is proven and use it in other states. The United States used to be a leader in education and should be again. It will never lead as long as we have Common Core. We are better than this.

*Teresa Mull is a policy adviser for The Heartland Institute, a nonpartisan, nonprofit research center headquartered in Arlington Heights, Illinois.*

# Heartland Heat Map

THE HEARTLAND INSTITUTE 

**By Cameron Sholty**  
**Government Relations Director**

The last several months were unusually busy for Heartland's Government Relations Department.

With an eye to 2020, we have prioritized developing relationships with other state-based think tanks and networking with potential allies so we can extend our reach and impact. In turn, those organizations are able to leverage the research, communications, networks, and experience that Heartland has developed over 35 years.

To that end, The Heartland Institute exhibited at SPN's Annual Meeting and networked with state-based think tanks from across the country and met with their communications, government relations, and development staff. It is in these face-to-face and group settings that our government relations team can really dive deeply into the issues that are evolving nationwide and learn how to best allocate resources to move the needle on free-market policies.

Heartland staff also traveled to San Diego and attended ExcelinEd's annual meeting. Advocates, legislators, and community leaders from across the country attended the event and presented opportunities to learn from nationally recognized experts and thought-leaders on the opportunities and challenges facing the education reform movement.

We also spent three days in Scottsdale, Arizona attending American Legislative Exchange Council task forces and presentations on energy and environment is-

suues, budget and tax issues, and education reform. The annual ALEC event brings together hundreds of the leading free-market minded state legislators; it is these opportunities that Heartland will continue to capitalize on as we enter the new year.

As 2019 wound down, The Heartland Institute hosted its second Emerging Issues Forum (EIF) of the year in New Orleans, Louisiana. Following the most successful EIF ever in August in Austin,

Texas, the December EIF was particularly focused on issues that policymakers and legislators are certain to address in the upcoming spring legislative sessions of 2020, from food labeling laws

and cannabis policy to emerging trends in health care policy and federalism.

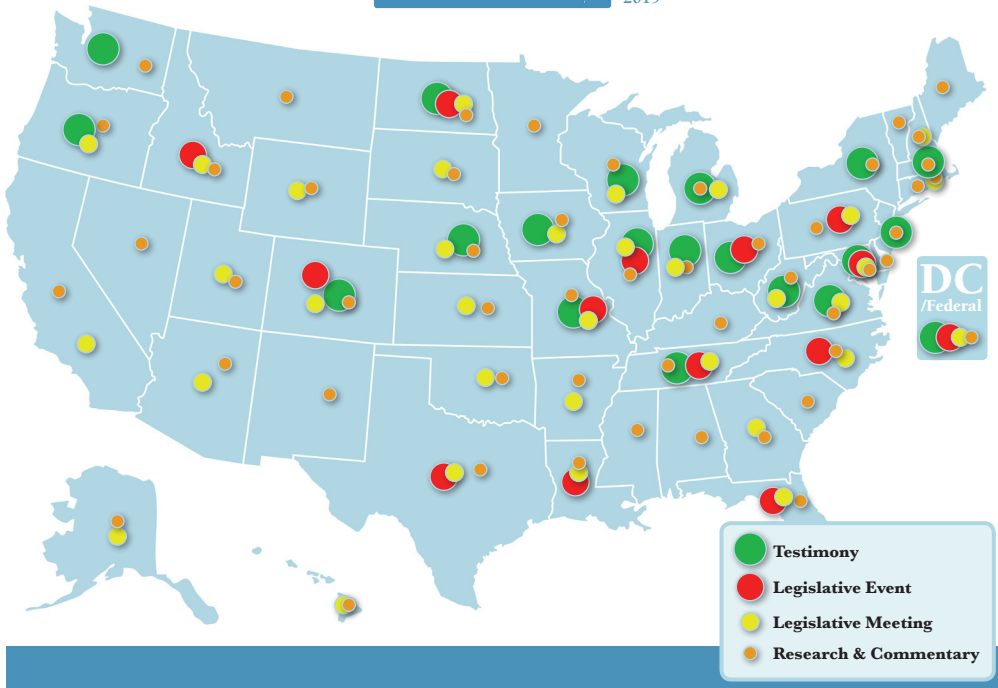
Nationally recognized experts and lawmakers interacted and exchanged ideas on how to pursue market-based policies that empower individuals and create broad-based prosperity. Heartland's Emerging Issues Forum continues to be a truly unique and valuable experience for state legislators, offering them opportunities to not just network but to exchange good ideas and experiences.

2020 will be a busy year with exciting issues evolving in the state capitols prior to what is surely going to be a contentious election in the fall. Heartland government relations staff will be working closely with legislators to develop good ideas into good public policy—the type of policies that contribute to the national debate and pave a path toward economic prosperity.

THE HEARTLAND HEAT  
MAP LAYS OUT OUR  
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS  
TEAM'S EDUCATION AND  
LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES IN  
THE 50 STATES.

# Heartland Heat Map

THE HEARTLAND INSTITUTE 2019



	Testimony	Legislative Event	Legislative Meeting	Research & Commentary		Testimony	Legislative Event	Legislative Meeting	Research & Commentary		Testimony	Legislative Event	Legislative Meeting	Research & Commentary
AL			Yellow	Orange	LA		Red	Yellow	Orange	OH	Green		Yellow	Orange
AK				Orange	ME				Orange	OK			Yellow	Orange
AZ			Yellow	Orange	MD	Green	Red	Yellow	Orange	OR	Green		Yellow	Orange
AR			Yellow	Orange	MA	Green			Orange	PA		Red	Yellow	Orange
CA			Yellow	Orange	MI	Green		Yellow	Orange	RI			Yellow	Orange
CO	Green	Red	Yellow	Orange	MN				Orange	SC				Orange
CT				Orange	MS				Orange	SD			Yellow	Orange
DE				Orange	MO	Green	Red	Yellow	Orange	TN	Green	Red	Yellow	Orange
FL		Red	Yellow	Orange	MT				Orange	TX		Red	Yellow	Orange
GA			Yellow	Orange	NE	Green		Yellow	Orange	UT			Yellow	Orange
HI			Yellow	Orange	NV				Orange	VT				Orange
ID		Red	Yellow	Orange	NH			Yellow	Orange	VA	Green		Yellow	Orange
IL	Green	Red	Yellow	Orange	NJ	Green			Orange	WA	Green			Orange
IN	Green		Yellow	Orange	NM				Orange	WV	Green		Yellow	Orange
IA	Green		Yellow	Orange	NY	Green			Orange	WI	Green		Yellow	Orange
KS			Yellow	Orange	NC		Red	Yellow	Orange	WY			Yellow	Orange
KY				Orange	ND	Green	Red	Yellow	Orange	DC	Green	Red	Yellow	Orange



Madrid, Spain

# ***Heartland Takes Madrid COP25 by Storm***

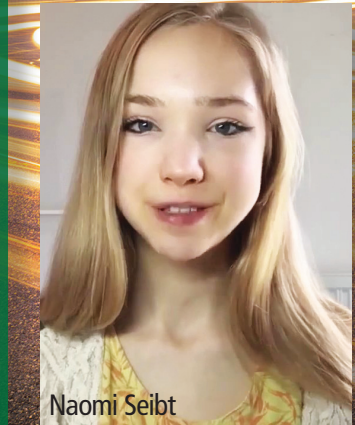
In mid-2019, The Heartland Institute made all the arrangements necessary to attend the United Nations' Conference of the Parties meeting (COP25) in December 2019 in Chile. Then a funny thing happened. The people of Chile rose up to protest the “green” energy policies that the leftist government there put in place to appease the United Nations. The street violence in opposition to the UN-directed higher energy and transportation costs was so extreme the conference was moved at the last minute to Madrid, Spain. And Heartland—amused, but undeterred—followed.

We put on a program featuring William Happer, science advisor for President Trump's National Security Council; Guus Berkhout, a member of The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences; American meteorologist Stanley Goldenberg; Chilean scientist Douglas Pollock; European Institute for Climate and Energy General Secretary Wolfgang Müller; advisor to former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Lord Christopher Monckton; International Climate Science Coalition Executive Director Tom Harris; and Heartland's long-time Climate Policy Director James Taylor.

Our special guest speaker was a young woman from Germany who has heard the rhetoric of the alarmist European Union and United Nations her whole life. Unlike Time's Person of the Year, Greta Thunberg, she has learned to think for herself. Her name is Naomi Seibt, and she is now part of the Heartland family and will be working with us to communicate the truth about the climate to her generation.

Naomi's presence at Heartland's Climate Reality Forum in Madrid helped make it our most-watched event ever—more than 350,000 views before the year was out.

***Watch the entire event at  
[YouTube.com/Heartlandtube](https://www.youtube.com/Heartlandtube)***



Naomi Seibt

2019

The Heartland Institute

**BENEFIT DINNER**  
WITH **GLENN BECK**

# STOPPING SOCIALISM

The mission of The Heartland Institute's Stopping Socialism Project is to halt the rise of socialism and other forms of collectivism in the United States while advocating for free-market, pro-liberty solutions to social and economic problems.

In the fourth quarter of 2019, the Stopping Socialism Project continued to be one of the organization's most successful and influential efforts, drawing significant media attention from many of the nation's leading voices and media outlets, including *Tucker Carlson Tonight*, *Fox & Friends*, the *Glenn Beck Radio Program*, and the nationally

syndicated *Wayne Allyn Root Show*.

"Stopping Socialism" was the theme of The Heartland Institute's 35th Anniversary Benefit Dinner. The event

featured Glenn Beck as the keynote speaker. Beck delivered a fantastic speech where he took Heartland supporters on a journey through history, reminding us all why America is a great country—unique and indispensable because it was founded

in liberty.


Looking forward, make sure to keep an eye on the Stopping Socialism Project because we have some very exciting announcements that will be made in 2020.



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