

# Tell them why they're wrong when they say single-payer is not *politically viable*!

These are all variations on the same theme and we hear them all the time...

| Criticism  | Response   |
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| We can't push for single-payer; it's too radical. We need to push for something in the middle, a compromise.                                   | Even if your ultimate goal is to get a "public option"—how can you start a negotiation at the position you want to end up? You need single-payer on the table before you can even start negotiating.   |
| By supporting single-payer, you're spoiling our chances of getting even a "good public option."  | That's a misunderstanding of power dynamics, and a favorite trick from those in power: "We were going to give you half a glass of water, but since you were so unreasonable as to ask for a full glass, now we won't give you anything at all." Just as those pushing for gay marriage are not spoiling the chances of halfway measures like civil union, those advocating for single-payer are moving the center of the debate. |
| Just by mentioning single-payer, you're opening the floodgates for the right wing to attack.   | The right wing didn't need single-payer to open the floodgates; they were perfectly happy opening the gates for the "public option"—calling it "socialized medicine." Any left-of-center plan will be demonized, so we might as well push for what we actually want.   |
| You're dividing the Left—if only single-payer advocates would support a "public option," we'd be unified and strong and get a "public option." | If only "public option" advocates would support single-payer, we'd be unified and strong and get single-payer!   |
| If we don't get any reform at all, it's because the single-payer movement split the support.   | Healthcare reform is not a zero-sum game. This is not a referendum in which voters get one vote each, thus potentially halving the "reform vote" and letting the non-reformers win.  |
| Conventional wisdom in politics says single-payer is not viable, so don't waste your time advocating for it.                                   | Conventional wisdom in politics said Barack Obama was not a viable candidate for the American presidency. His supporters organized and made it not only viable but inevitable.   |