

Press Release

01. November 2021

YOUR NHS NEEDS YOU! is a new campaign launched last week to huge success with hundreds of thousands of people engaging with the campaign in the first 24 hours and hundreds of thousands more since. <https://www.yournhsneedsyou.com>

Featuring videos from Stephen Fry, Yanis Varoufakis, Shami Khorsandi, George Monbiot, Angela Barnes, and Ben Bailey-Smith — all sounding the alarm that the current **Health and Care Bill** is likely to be the nail in the coffin for our cherished public health service.

#YourNHSneedsyou trended on twitter repeatedly at launch and over weekend followed by endorsements from Caroline Lucas, John McDonnell, Jeremy Corbyn and a number of other MPs.

Quotes from initial endorsers below and a precis of our concerns around the bill in the notes below.

For info on the next steps in our campaign please get in touch.

Stephen Fry said:

“I’ve seen what a nightmare healthcare is — if you can call it that — in America. A real nightmare! And the idea of that infecting our NHS is like the idea of a new pandemic frankly. That kind of infection would destroy and compromise the health service we’ve grown to depend on and love, and to be incredibly proud of! Research shows that American corporations ARE embedding themselves in our NHS. And this is a really dangerous, and a very, very worrying turn of events. Go to [yourNHSneedsyou.com](https://www.yournhsneedsyou.com) and do what you can to save the beloved NHS.”

Jo Brand said:

“I’m worried about the NHS... with the increasing, creeping privatisation. There are huge American corporation champing at the bit to get a slice of the action. If you’re concerned, go and have a look at [yourNHSneedsyou.com](https://www.yournhsneedsyou.com).”

David Tennant said:

“It saved my life when my appendix burst... It saved my daughter’s life... The NHS is probably the thing that makes me proudest to be British — proud because it’s a national kindness. We tinker with that at our peril. Go to [yourNHSneedsyou.com](https://www.yournhsneedsyou.com) and see what you can do.”

Dr. Julia Patterson said:

“I run Every Doctor. We’re delighted to show support to a fantastic new campaign against NHS privatization which is called Your NHS Needs You! NHS privatization is bad news. It’s been going on for about three decades, but it’s going to accelerate now because of a new bill that is going through Parliament called the Health and Care Bill. We really encourage you to go to yourNHSneedsyou.com and support their efforts.”

Yanis Varoufakis said

“Our aim is to stop the Bill and start the renationalization of the NHS: the restoration of a market-free system delivering care as a right, not as a commodity, within a community of providers who extend public provision to social, dental and optician care and do so by using the latest in modern technology without falling prey to Big Tech’s hunger for data extracted from patients in order to turn them into commodities.”

This week the campaign will take the next steps in lobbying MPs direct action and holding events to highlight the impact this bill will have and release new videos from the next round of endorsers

Video compilation of all endorsers can be found -

<https://twitter.com/YourNHS2021/status/1454425042411048964> and
<https://fb.watch/8-vuNoznBz/>

The campaign will continue this week highlighting the risks of the Health and Care Bill and will have videos and articles from:

Brian Eno, Russell Brand, Jo Brand, Frankie Boyle, Steve Coogan, Aisling Bea, Jonathan Ross, Stephen Fry, Nish Kumar, Romesh Ranganathan, Shappi Khorsandi, Mark Watson, Marcus Brigstocke & Rachel Parris, Emma Kennedy, Kerry Godliman, Josie Long, Jess Fostekew,, Johnny Vegas, Suzi Ruffell, Kiri Pritchard-McClean, Jen Brister, Joe Lycett, Robin Ince, Angela Barnes, Richard Herring, Ed Byrne, Dane Baptiste, Rosie Jones, Lee Ridley, Graeme Garden, Deborah Francis-White, Saffron Burrows, Jodie Whittaker, Juliet Stevenson, Samuel West, David Tenant, Vicky Mclure, Julie Hesmondhalgh, Charlotte Church, Reverend and the Makers, Dave Ward, Yanis Varoufakis, Dr Julia Patterson, Dr Adam Kay, Peter Stefanovich, George Monbiot, Jason Hickel, Lemn Sissay and Michael Rosen.

This is a **DiEM25 campaign**, supported by Unite the Union, CWU, We Own it, Every Doctor UK, The Peoples Assembly, and many other groups.

For comment or interview contact:

Marshajane Thompson (UK)
07983592998

Claudia Trapp
press@diem25.org

Notes:

Your NHS Needs You! is a national campaign to stop the Health and Care Bill, and build massive public pressure to renationalise the English NHS.

www.yournhsneedsyou.com

Twitter @YourNHS2021

<https://www.facebook.com/YourNHSNeedsYou/>

What are the main aims of the campaign?

We have three aims:

- To help the public understand how the English NHS is being prepared for an American private health insurance take-over.
- To build resistance to the Health and Care Bill.
- To build understanding of the urgent need to renationalise the English NHS (and the follow on impact on devolved health provision)

What's wrong with the Health and Care Bill?

The Bill consolidates and greatly expands the stealth privatisation of the English NHS, handing more power to private corporations and restricting patient access to treatment. For a detailed analysis of how it does this, please look at the **Bill** page on our website.

On what are your claims about the Bill based?

Our claims are based on research by leading health policy academics, some of whom have studied the Bill extensively, and others who have been researching and writing about NHS privatisation for decades. These include Allyson Pollock, Stewart Player and the Health Policy Progress Group. We are also listening to the testimony and research of practicing doctors who have a unique perspective on what's happening.

Are you claiming the Bill will lead to the end of the NHS in England?

The NHS logo will remain but national standards will go. Universally available care will be replaced by a postcode lottery. It will be even harder to access your GP, and patients will be directed to less qualified staff leading to a reduction in quality of care. American 'treatment pathways' software will replace GPs' autonomy to diagnose and refer patients. GPs will receive financial incentives to cut care and deny treatment. Costly and complex hospital services will be cut. Anyone who can afford it will be

pushed to buy privately provided health insurance, but this will not guarantee care, especially when costly treatment is required for serious illnesses and the complex health problems affecting the elderly and disabled. Within the remaining skeleton 'NHS' emergency service, treatment will be carried out by private providers. Those who cannot afford insurance will face ever longer waits to access GP and hospital services, as closures and mergers continue. So, yes, in essence it is the death of the NHS as we know it. All that will remain is a hollowed-out, branded shell.

The political vision is clear: a return to a publicly funded, publicly provided national service, managed by clinical medical staff delivering high quality care to all. An end to all outsourcing, private providers and charging infrastructure. The re-introduction of dental and optician care; the cancellation of all PFI debt, and the abolition of the hugely wasteful internal market. Most healthcare legislation introduced since 1983 will need to be repealed.

We are working with a number of existing campaign groups, all of whom do important work that we are building on. We are not trying to reinvent the wheel. Nevertheless, we are fortunate to have incredible support from some of the leading comedians, actors, and writers in the country. They are helping us to get the word out and reach more people. We also decided from the outset to not soften our message about what is happening to the NHS. We want to be as honest about the problem, and as bold about the solutions, as possible.

Is the campaign party political?

No. We will welcome any MP, from any party, who wants to stop and reverse NHS privatisation. We already have strong support from MPs and Lords belonging to both Labour and the Greens.

How can people support you?

They can take the 5 actions on our website — www.yournhsneedsyou.com — and do their best to inform themselves and others about what is going on. As public pressure to renationalise the English NHS grows, and more groups join us, there will be scope to add further actions that people can take, so watch this space!