

Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law

Call for Papers: The Politics of Private Insurance

Deadline: February 1, 2026

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The *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* invites submissions for a special issue on “The Politics of Private Health Insurance.” The issue will examine the way that politics have both shaped and responded to private insurance, within and beyond the United States. In the U.S. context, private health insurers have faced a high degree of political attention over the past year. The high-profile murder of the United Healthcare CEO ushered in a public debate and visible mobilization over the harms of an industry framed as putting profit over care. The 2025 government shutdown is ostensibly a fight over the government’s role in subsidizing health insurance premiums. These high-profile events demonstrate the political salience of private health insurance and motivate renewed analysis of the context and impact of these policies associated with private delivery of health benefits. Further, with the continued acceleration of reliance on private options within Medicare and Medicaid and the emerging integration of private insurance policies in traditional Medicare (i.e., prior authorization), the time is ripe to examine the drivers of managed care tool adoption and their impact on access to health care. Contextualizing these facets of America’s health insurance delivery within the broader landscape of other nations’ approaches not only deepens understanding of privatized health insurance systems elsewhere but also offers insights for future health reform discourse. Drawing on the disciplines of political science, health policy, public health, sociology, and law, and engaging with both historical and contemporary perspectives, this issue will shed new light on the politics of private health insurance.

We seek submissions on topics including, but not limited, to:

- Politics driving and perpetuating prior authorization
- Role of AI in private health insurance
- Public opinion on prior authorization and other private health insurance tools and issues (i.e., tax credits and subsidies)
- Acceleration of Medicare Advantage
- The politics of Marketplace/non-group health insurance
- The politics and implementation of managed care in Medicaid
- Future of the Affordable Care Act
- Movement toward VA privatization
- The role of employers in provision of private health insurance
- Health insurance privatization in comparative perspective

Submission categories

We are interested in submissions within three categories:

- Commentaries (with or without empirical data, up to 4000 words)
- Full research articles (up to 9000 words, inclusive of abstract and references)
- “Tracking Health Reform” – submissions designed for a policy or general audience that discuss a policy issue in depth, such as how state legislators are responding to private insurance issues (i.e., medical debt relief, market stabilization, public option plans)

Submission instructions

Please submit your article via *JHPPL*’s ScholarOne site at <https://mc04.manuscriptcentral.com/dup-jhppl>. Authors must select the article type (commentary/essay, research article, “Tracking Health Reform” article) that corresponds to their submission and indicate in their cover letter that the submission is to be considered for “The Politics of Private Health Insurance” special issue. All submissions must adhere to *JHPPL*’s [submission guidelines](#).

Submissions must be received by February 1, 2026, to be considered for the issue.