The Preamble of our Constitution declares that promoting the “general Welfare” of Americans is a bedrock priority for this country. Yet, we allow millions of Americans to suffer without basic healthcare, to die of preventable disease, and to be forced into debt because of staggering healthcare and prescription costs. Healthcare is an economic necessity and a moral imperative. Thus, I support universal healthcare for all Americans.

The current healthcare system is not a free market. There’s no bargaining power when your life or your child’s health is on the line. It’s not an equitable market because a person’s health is largely determined by their wealth and where they live. Ensuring that every American has full and meaningful access to healthcare reduces suffering, reduces our costs, increases the middle-class, adds stability to our families, improves stagnant wages, and bolsters the U.S. economy. Our federal government must be a partner in the solution.

- Teresa Tomlinson

AS YOUR NEXT U.S. SENATOR FROM GEORGIA:

- I will lead the effort to achieve universal healthcare coverage.

- I will move to protect and strengthen the Affordable Care Act (ACA) because it has
  1) provided protections for 130 million Americans living with pre-existing conditions;
  2) required insurance companies to cover essential health benefits such as maternity and newborn care, preventative care, and mental health services;
  3) enabled young adults to stay on their parent’s insurance; and
  4) provided coverage for millions of Americans who live in states which chose to expand Medicaid.

- I will seek legislative amendments to allow the federal government to take over full funding of Medicaid expansion throughout the United States thereby stopping individual state’s veto of the program. The federal government currently pays 90 cents on the dollar for Medicaid expansion. Its assumption of the additional 10 cents would provide healthcare access to hundreds of thousands of Georgians and millions of US citizens who live at up to 138% of the poverty rate. This investment is critical to fortify our national public health, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and its disparate effect on people with underlying issues. The investment is also necessary to reinvest in our rural healthcare system and reduce maternal mortality.

- I will work to lower the Medicare eligibility age to 55 and offer a public option for people to buy-in to Medicare insurance coverage through the ACA healthcare exchanges. This will also drive down the cost of private insurance premiums for the 160 million Americans who have coverage through employer-based plans.