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Campaign Buttons Are Here!



Minnesota Health Plan: SINGLE Payer now, ONE comprehensive plan for all.

Stop by the MUHCC office to pick up a button (suggested donation \$2.00), or send a check for \$5.00 made out to MUHCC and two buttons will be mailed to you. Large quantities are also available.

[Go to our website](#) and click on "Contact Us" for more information! ([Click here for a map and directions.](#))

Did You Know?

When employer health care premiums rise 20%, 3.5 million workers will lose their jobs, 3-4 million workers will get shifted to part-time work, and insured workers' incomes will drop \$1,700. ([Read the report](#) for more information.)

14,000 people became uninsured in the United States every day in December 2008.

MUHCC- APRIL 2009 Newsletter

JOIN US and Build Support for the Minnesota Health Plan!

MUHCC hosts phone banks to call supporters, urging them to contact their legislators.

Upcoming phone banks

Saturday April 25th from 3-5 p.m.

Saturday May 16th from 3-5 p.m.

All phone banks take place at COACT- 2469 University Ave. West, Suite W.150 St. Paul, MN 55114.

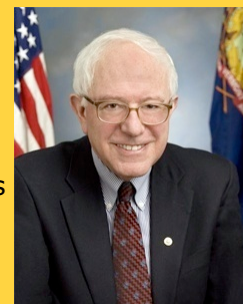
Phone banks are an opportunity to network with other supporters and have fun! Training and materials will be provided. [Go here and choose "Contact Us" to RSVP.](#)



Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) introduces single-payer health care bill in the U.S. Senate

Senator Sanders introduced the **American Health Security Act of 2009**, S. 703 on March 26, 2009.

According to a [press release issued by Physicians for a National Health Program](#), implementation of this plan would provide comprehensive benefits including dental, mental health and prescription drugs; eliminate co-pays and deductibles; and restore free choice of provider. It is estimated to save over \$400 billion annually in administrative overhead; money which can be redirected to providing actual health care. Provisions include fully funding community health centers which will help address underserved areas, and addressing the shortage of primary care providers by providing resources to the National Health Service Corps for training additional providers. Sanders's bill draws on a similar piece of legislation introduced by the late Senator Paul Wellstone in 1993.



We now have an excellent Senate bill to match the popular single-payer health bills in the House, authored by Rep. Conyers (H.R. 676) and Rep. McDermott (H.R. 1200). A copy of the Sanders bill is available [here](#).

Minnesota Health Plan Update

Seventy-one Minnesota legislators have signed on the Minnesota Health Act! With 1/3 of the legislature behind the bill, and with the public filling each hearing room to capacity, the bill moved easily through the Senate Health, Housing and Family Security Committee (8-5 vote on January 26, 2009), and the Senate Commerce and

every day in December 2008 and January 2009. (Read more [here](#) and [here](#).)



MUHCC needs your financial support!

Please click below to donate \$25, \$50, \$100 or MORE! For the price of a latte a week, become a sustaining contributor with an automatic monthly bank debit (\$7.50/month minimum). Contact Amy Lange for details. (Go to [our website](#) and click on "Contact Us" to email Amy Lange.)



2009), and the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee (7-3 vote on February 10, 2009).

The bill had its first hearing in the House on February 25, 2009 in the House Health Care and Human Services Policy and Oversight Committee. [Read the compelling testimony given by Ed Ehlinger MD](#), Medical Director of Boynton Health Service at the University of MN. No vote was taken during this hearing, and the MHA is now tabled for the 2009 session.



We anticipate several hearings in the 2010 session:

- [Senate State and Local Government Operations and Oversight Committee](#)
- [Senate Judiciary Committee](#)
- [House Health Care and Human Services Policy and Oversight Committee](#)
- [House Commerce and Labor Committee](#)

The legislators on these committees need to hear from their constituents that the Minnesota Health Plan is the most efficient, equitable and cost effective means to universal coverage. **Please consider joining us in our phone banking efforts to reach constituents in these key districts.**

White House Seeks Input and Hears: Put Single-Payer on the Table!

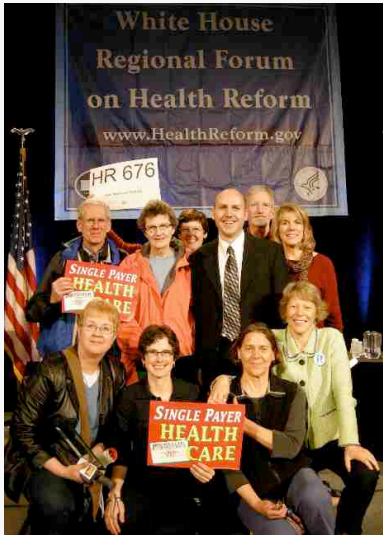
Each time the Obama administration calls for citizen input on health care reform, hundreds of thousands of Americans respond.

In December, people from all 50 states participated in over 4000 community meetings about health care. A summary report is now available at [healthreform.gov](#).

Here is an excerpt from the conclusion.

"... the problem with America's health care system cannot just be reduced to cost, access or quality; **the system as a whole requires structural and large-scale reform**. Overall, participants advocated for a new system that promotes wellness rather than just managing sickness; a system that is less complex and more transparent; and a system that does not leave them in fear of losing their insurance when they lose their job. ... hoped for a **system that treats health care as a public good rather than a market commodity...**" (emphasis added)

In March, over 100,000 people submitted online questions and 3.5



"Team Des Moines"



Obama responded that we must build on our current system and that the U.S. has a "legacy" of employer-based plans that have "filled the needs of a majority of Americans." [Read the transcript of the President's answer to that question.](#)

But linking health insurance to employment no longer makes sense. The sad fact is that fewer and fewer people have employer-based coverage ([less than 60%](#)) and those who do are seeing their benefits shrinking, their wages suppressed and their out-of-pocket costs soaring. MUHCC seeks a "legacy" that ensures health care for all, regardless of employment status--which would be achieved by the Minnesota Health Plan. We seek to restore the vitality of American businesses by removing the burden of health care costs from their backs. We seek freedom for Americans to change employment in order to match their skills, not in order to have access to health care.

To personally participate in the public debate, 15 Minnesotans traveled to the **White House Regional Health Care Forum in Des Moines, Iowa on March 23rd**. They participated in a pre-forum rally to "put single-payer on the table" and were also able to participate in the forum. Go [here](#) and [here](#) for video and written transcripts of the event.