

Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition Newsletter

May 2008

Support Single-Payer Health Care at the MN State Fair!

1. Sign a petition in support of the Minnesota Health Act in the Minnesota Farmer's Union building.
2. Join us Sunday August 31st from 3-4 pm for a live radio broadcast of AM950's *Of the People* with Host James Mayer on the Minnesota Health Act.
3. Volunteer to collect petition signatures during the radio broadcast at the AM950 booth, or anytime during the fair at the Minnesota Farmer's Union building.



PNHP-MN and MUHCC members Dr. Elizabeth Frost and Dr. Ann Settgaest with Rep. Keith Ellison, with their ad of the (first!) 150 Minnesota physicians who have signed on in support of HR 676.

WE ARE WORKING HARD

However, we cannot do this without your support. Your financial support enables us to do our work. It enables us to affect public policy on health care through effective lobbying and grassroots organizing.

Please consider making a financial contribution to the Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition. To find out how you can donate, please visit the [MUHCC website](#).

If you would like to make a secured on-line donation, please click on the button below. MUHCC is a registered 501(c)(4) non-profit. Contributions support advocacy and lobbying and are NOT tax deductible.



We Need Volunteers!

There are many opportunities for participating in this exciting social movement. Whether your interests are lobbying, writing, data entry, fundraising, technology - we need you.

We will be respectful of your time and we will match the task to your skill and interest.

Please click on the "hands" below to let us know your interest, and we will contact you.

Thank you!!



Dear Friends & Supporters,

You may not have heard from us for awhile, but we have been busy!

Read below to learn more about our summer activities, what's coming up in the near future, and how you can get involved.

We've Been Busy This Summer!

Here's a small sample of some of our summer activities. Click on the links below for photos and more information.

July 26- "Affordable Health Care for Everyone: The Single Payer Approach", Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
Presentation by Dr. James Hart

July 29 - Health Care Reform Gathering, Northfield
Presentation by Dr. James Hart and viewing of a clip from a [Charlie Rose interview with T.R. Reid](#) about the PBS FRONTLINE program [Sick Around the World](#).

This event was the first meeting for citizens the Northfield area who are interested in promoting universal, quality, affordable health care. If you would like get involved with or find out more about this newly forming group, contact Joan or Steve Janusz at 507.645.0094.

Congratulations to Joan Janusz for getting local media coverage of the event! [Click here](#) to read Joan's guest column in Northfield's local newspaper.

August 11- Rep. Keith Ellison's Forum on Winning Single-Payer Health Care, Robbinsdale
MUHCC and PNHP-MN member Dr. Ann Settgest was one of the panelists.

MUHCC Member Organizations Promote Single-Payer

MAPE (MN Association of Professional Employees)

Kudos to [MAPE](#) for putting their clout behind single-payer! In June, the MAPE board gave \$7,500 donation to MUHCC to advance single-payer advocacy in Minnesota. In July, the MAPE member publication, *The Professional*, featured an article on single-payer and MUHCC. Thank you, MAPE!

To read the single-payer article in *The Professional*, [click here](#).

MN COACT (Citizens Organized ACTing Together)

For the second year in a row, COACT's annual Farm Picnic was dedicated to the plight of family farms and Main Street businesses who are struggling to pay for health coverage.

At COACT's Farm Picnic on Sunday, August 17, nearly one hundred rural Minnesotans heard why farms and businesses need the Minnesota Health Plan for single-payer universal health care. Other MUHCC member organizations represented at the picnic included Thom Petersen of the **Minnesota Farmers Union** and Nancy Breymeier of the **Metropolitan Independent Business Alliance** ([MIBA](#)).

Minnesota Farmer's Union

Every year the [Minnesota Farmer's Union](#) chooses an issue and creates a petition for people to sign. This year the MFU is urging people to sign a petition in support of universal single payer health coverage and the Minnesota Health Plan.

MFU welcomes everyone to stop by to visit and sign the petition. Visitors can also take advantage of their full service espresso bar and coffee shop with organic fair-trade coffee and featuring mocha on a stick.

Physicians Support Single Payer

By Ann Settgast, MD

Support for single-payer health care among physicians is surging. In a [new survey](#) published in April 2008 in the Annals of Internal Medicine, 5000 physicians across the nation were asked "In principle, do you support or oppose government legislation to establish national health insurance?" A total of 59% of respondents said they would support such legislation. This is up from 49% in 2002 when the same question was posed.

Indicative of this trend, Minnesota physicians have organized a statewide chapter of the national organization, **Physicians for a National Health Program** (PNHP). The PNHP-MN chapter is fortunate to include many dedicated physician activists who recognize that as direct providers of patient care, they are uniquely well-positioned to advocate effectively for single-payer reform.

PNHP-MN is a member of MUHCC and endorses the MN Health Act. In addition, PNHP-MN advocates for single-payer reform at the national level. Chapter members have gathered 150 physician signatures in support of the national single-payer bill (The National Health Insurance Act, HR 676). Current signatures were featured on the back cover of the May 2008 issue of Minnesota Physician. Interested physicians are encourage to visit the new chapter [website](#) and add their signatures in support of HR 676.

The national single-payer bill, HR 676 has 90 cosponsors in the US House of Representatives. It was introduced in the 110th legislative session in January 2007. It is endorsed nationally by over 400 organizations (medical, faith, civic) and by about 20 local governments. Only one of Minnesota's eight representatives in the House is currently a cosponsor of the bill (Representative Keith Ellison of District 5).

One of PNHP-MN's goals is to increase sponsorship of HR 676. Co-founders Drs. Ann Settgast and Elizabeth Frost have met with aides to both Representatives Betty McCollum and Tim Walz. They & PNHP members in several congressional districts are in the process of arranging meetings with these and other MN representatives to request co-sponsorship of HR 676.

Thank you, PNHP-MN!!

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3. Volunteer to collect petition signatures during the radio broadcast at the AM950 booth, or anytime during the fair at the Minnesota Farmer's Union building.

Details

1. Sign a petition in support of single-payer health care and the Minnesota Health Plan.

When: Anytime during the State Fair that the MFU building is open.

Where: Minnesota Farmer's Union building on Dan Patch Ave. near the corner of Dan Patch and Cosgrove (in between the Culligan display and the DFL pavilion). Look for the petition on the podium to the left of the front desk.

2. Join Us August 31st at the State Fair for a Single-Payer Call to Action!

What: Live State Fair broadcast of AM950's *Of the People* - with Host James Mayer and guests including Rep. Shelly Madore and MUHCC's Susan Hasti

Topic: Experts and citizens talk about why and how to get lawmakers to enact the Minnesota Health Act and make health care for all of us a reality

When: Sunday August 31, 3:00-4:00 PM

Where: AM950 booth at the State Fair, on Randall Avenue between Cosgrove and Cooper Streets

If you aren't able to be there in person:

Listen on the radio dial: AM 950 KTNF (formerly Air America Minnesota)

Listen online: <http://www.am950ktnf.com/listen>

3. Volunteers Needed at the State Fair!

We need volunteers to help collect signatures on the MFU/MUHCC petition in support of the Minnesota Health Act. A limited number of **FREE** ADMISSION TICKETS to the State Fair are available to the first people who sign up as volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, email info@muhcc.org for more information.

We hope that you enjoyed the newsletter. Please forward the e-mail to people interested in health care reform, by clicking on the "forward email" link below.

Thank you!