



# Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition

## January 2010 E-Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Federal health care reform negotiations are now going on behind closed doors. President Obama is still pushing to pass and sign a bill before his State of the Union address in early February. Most folks say that to hold the fragile 60 votes in the Senate, the final bill can't deviate much from the Senate version. Critics in both parties decry some of the deals made to secure those 60 Senate votes. There are threats of legal challenges to the federal bill, the merits of which will be widely debated. I sound like a broken record, but the battles will move to the states as soon as the Federal bill is passed, regardless of the bill's final details. Though passage of the Minnesota Health Plan will not come this session, we show continuing signs of progress. With continued progress will come more organized opposition. Your active participation will counterbalance that opposition. Read on and take action!

*Amy Lange*  
Executive Director

### **NINE GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES WOULD SIGN THE MINNESOTA HEALTH PLAN!!- MUHCC CANDIDATE SURVEY**

#### **Q: Which statement most fits your approach?**

A. I support building on our current system of employer based private coverage if we expand choice and competition and protect against discriminatory practices.

B. I support expanding consumer directed health plans (ex: health savings accounts) and creating national insurance exchanges so patients can buy insurance out of state.

**Anderson (GOP)**

C. I support universal coverage such as through a single-payer system, and believe we will get there incrementally.

**Gaertner (DFL), Kelley (DFL), Rukavina (DFL), Rybak (DFL), Thissen (DFL)**

D. I support single-payer health care for the state of MN as defined by the MN Health Plan.

**Anderson-Kelliher (DFL), Bakk (DFL), Dayton (DFL), Marty (DFL), Rukavina (DFL)**

#### **Q: As governor would you sign the MN Health Act if it passed in the legislature?**

Yes: **Anderson-Kelliher, Bakk, Dayton, Entenza, Gaertner, Marty, Rukavina, Rybak, Thissen**

No: **P. Anderson (GOP), Haas (GOP), Kelley**

Note- not all candidates answered every question, and a candidate may have marked more than one response. For more information:

Read a [summary](#) of entire survey

Read [complete answers](#) to survey questions

## **THE CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS STILL PUSHING FOR A BETTER BILL**

The Congressional Progressive Caucus sent a letter on January 7<sup>th</sup> to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) reiterating progressive demands for the conference committee bill. In it they reaffirm their commitment to a public option, state single-payer, abolishing the insurance industry anti-trust exemption and the House affordability standards. **Go Congressional Progressive Caucus!**. Read the letter [here](#).

## **PRECINCT CAUCUSES AROUND THE CORNER- SUPPORT THE MINNESOTA HEALTH PLAN**

Make sure single-payer health care and the Minnesota Health Plan are defining issues in the election. Attend your precinct caucus **Tuesday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010**. Introduce our single-payer resolution, and distribute it to your friends, neighbors and colleagues. Run to be a single-payer, delegate (candidate, undeclared).

## **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A UNIVERSAL, SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE SYSTEM ON THE FEDERAL AND STATE LEVEL**

**WHEREAS**, lack of health insurance is a cause of 45,000 deaths per year in the U.S  
and

**WHEREAS**, 62% of personal bankruptcies are due to medical expenses and  
over 75% of these people have health insurance  
and

**WHEREAS**, Over 47 million people in this country lack health insurance, millions more are under-insured, over 450,000 Minnesotans lack insurance coverage and minorities are disproportionately likely to be without insurance  
and

**WHEREAS**, Federal reforms will not achieve universal coverage nor adequately control costs and will perpetuate a fragmented and inequitable health care system  
and

**WHEREAS**, a single payer system is the only system of health care that can assure universal and equitable coverage, portability and choice of provider, while also controlling costs

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the (political party) supports and works to enact a universal, single-payer health care plan on the federal level and the single-payer Minnesota Health Act at the state level.

**Contact single-payer supporters about precinct caucuses- Phonebank at MUHCC January 14<sup>th</sup> and /or January 28<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up here!**

[For more information on caucuses](#)

[For a PDF of the resolution](#)

## **WE WON'T BE SAVED BY THE FREE MARKET**

Nobel Prize winning economist, Paul Krugman writes “There are a number of successful health-care systems, at least as measured by pretty good care, much cheaper than here, and they are quite different from each other. There are, however, no examples of successful health care (systems) based on the principles of the free market, for one simple reason: in health care, the free market just doesn’t work. And people who say that the market is the answer are flying in the face of both theory and overwhelming evidence.”

Read his [full blog post](#).

## **MINNESOTA UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE COALITION TO BE HONORED AT MINNESOTA WOMEN'S CONSORTIUM 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA**

The **Minnesota Women's Consortium**, a coalition of over 170 member organizations **committed to equality and justice for all women and girls** will be celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Thursday January 28<sup>th</sup> at the Radisson University in Minneapolis. MUHCC is being honored for its coalition work. Information and tickets available [here](#).

## **FULL BODY SCANS TO DOUBLE AS ANNUAL CHECKUPS**

Yes it's a joke, but given the tenor of things in this country, not totally implausible. As written by satirist Andy Borowitz in the *Borowitz Report*: "In what some in the White House are calling a "win/win" solution to the nation's airport security and health care reform problems, starting next month U.S. airports will begin conducting full body scans that will double as annual physical checkups." Read it all [here](#)

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

**The one pre-existing condition NO Minnesotan can afford is the condition of our current health care system!**

Community Forum on the Minnesota Health Plan

Thursday January 14, 2010, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

At Guardian Angels Church 8260 4th St N, Oakdale MN 55128

Speakers Include: Rep. Carolyn Laine (District 50A), Jim Hart, MD, John Kolstad, Metropolitan Independent Business Alliance. [Download a flyer](#)

## **Courageous Conversations about Health Care- A Unique Minnesota Solution**

An Educational Program and Discussion about the Minnesota Health Plan

Saturday January 16, 2010, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

At Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, 3900 Winnetka Ave, New Hope MN

Speakers include: Rep. Lyndon Carlson HD 45B, Rep. David Bly HD 25B, Lisa Nilles MD and Ann Settgest MD.

[Download a flyer](#)

## **Rally to Restore General Assistance Medical Care**

First Day of Legislative Session

Thursday February 4th, 2010, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

At **State Capitol**, Saint Paul MN

## **The 2010 Legislative Session Starts February 4<sup>th</sup>**

Details for these and other events available on our [website](#)

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