



Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition MAY 2010 E-Newsletter

Dear Friends,

The MN Legislature is wrapping up the 2010 legislative session, though a special session is still possible given the budget deficit and the recent MN Supreme Court decision reversing the Governor's unallotment. Either way, the wrangling at the state legislature has made the case for the MN Health Plan abundantly clear; until health care coverage is guaranteed,

Minnesotans will remain vulnerable to political bickering and the poorest and sickest will risk losing coverage with every budget shortfall. Despite this fragile reality, we have much to celebrate. We added bill co-authors and passed critical committees this session. A single-payer / MN Health Plan resolution was overwhelmingly adopted at the state DFL convention, and single-payer was well received at the Green Party and Independence Party conventions. One IP delegate remarked, "This is the most important issue being presented here." We agree. We plan to celebrate the hard won accomplishments of the past year at our upcoming June 10th fundraiser. I hope you will join us.

Amy Lange
Executive Director



You won't want to miss our ***Summer Single-Payer Celebration*** a fundraiser to benefit MN Universal Health Care Coalition and Physicians for a National Health Program- MN Chapter!

Thursday June 10th 2010

6:00-8:30 p.m.

Doors Open 5:30

Program begins 7:00

Downtown University Club

340 Cedar Street, Saint Paul 55101

[map](#)



Enjoy the musical talents of **T Mychael Rambo**, and **Papa John Kolstad** and hear **Senator Sharon Erickson Ropes**, co-author of the Minnesota Health Plan and **Donna Smith**, legislative advocate for National Nurses United / California Nurses Association, featured in the movie *Sicko*, on the way forward for single-payer.

The first MUHCC ***Single-Payer Leadership Award*** will be presented to the honorable **Senator John Marty**.

Come celebrate the accomplishments of the single-payer movement and gear up for the steps ahead.



Live and Silent Auction Light dinner Dessert Cash Bar

[Purchase Tickets \\$55.00 per person](#)

for questions, email: info@muhcc.org or call 651-641-4073

MULTI-STATE SINGLE-PAYER COLLABORATION WRITES *DECLARATION OF HEALTH INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY*

MUHCC has been taking part in a collaboration of states advancing single-payer bills. The weekly phone conferences on topics such as fundraising, media, legislative principles, and removal of federal barriers, led to a gathering in Pennsylvania on April 10th with representatives from 11 states. In the state that gave birth to our Declaration of Independence, this recent gathering gave rise to the *Declaration of Health Independence and Security* which begins:

“When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for citizens of this nation and its separate but equal states to transform conditions related to the common good within our control and necessary in order to assure the basic human rights of all...”

[Read it in full](#)

[Add your name](#)



WORKING FOR HEALTH CARE JUSTICE!! THE 2009 ANNUAL REPORT FOR MUHCC

What a year it has been! [Download Annual Report](#)

CONFUSED ABOUT THE FEDERAL BILL?

We have developed a side by side comparison of the Minnesota Health Plan and the basics of the federal bill. It isn't easy to distill a 2000+ page bill down to two pages! [Read it here.](#)

MINNEAPOLIS AND DULUTH CITY COUNCILS ENDORSE THE MINNESOTA HEALTH PLAN

City governments know that the Minnesota Health Plan will help city budgets.

On Monday April 12th the Duluth City Council [passed a resolution](#) endorsing the MN Health Plan by a vote of 6-3. On April 29th the intergovernmental Relations Committee, a committee of the entire Minneapolis City Council, [voted unanimously](#) to support the Minnesota Health Plan. Want to introduce a resolution to your council members? Please [contact us](#) for more information.

MORE EVIDENCE ON WHY THE FEDERAL BILL WON'T SOLVE THE HEALTH CARE CRISIS

[Fueling the Anger of Doctors:](#) “I’m at the office late every night taking care of mindless paperwork, just so the insurance companies can deny payment”... “Less than a fifth of doctors felt they could make clinical decisions based on what was best for the patient rather than on what payers were willing to cover. And an overwhelming majority believed that getting reimbursed was becoming increasingly complex and burdensome...”

[New York Offers Costly Lessons on Insurance:](#) ...“New York’s insurance system has been a working laboratory for the core provision of the new federal health care law — insurance even for those who are already sick and facing huge medical bills — and an expensive lesson in unplanned consequences. Premiums for individual and small group policies have risen so high that state officials and patients’ advocates say that New York’s extensive insurance safety net is falling apart...”

[Benefit for Uninsured May Still Pose Problem:](#) “William Mann of Pittsburgh earns just enough to get by... He is just the kind of person who should benefit from the health care overhaul, and he is, in fact, eligible for heavily subsidized insurance... But Mr. Mann says he still can’t afford it. He lives too close to the edge, and won’t be buying insurance, even though he will face a fine...”

[Documents reveal AT&T, Verizon, Others, Thought About Dropping Employer-Sponsored Benefits:](#) ... “Internal documents recently reviewed by Fortune, originally requested by Congress, show what the bill’s critics predicted, and

what its champions dreaded: many large companies are examining a course that was heretofore unthinkable, dumping the health care coverage they provide to their workers in exchange for paying penalty fees to the government...”

42,000 Lost Small-Group Health Coverage Last Year: ... “More than 42,000 Minnesotans lost their small-group health coverage last year, while enrollment in state-sponsored public health plans surged by a nearly equal amount. The state's HMOs attribute the shifts in health coverage to the bad economy and the rising cost of health care. Despite those factors, managed care organizations recorded an increase in income in 2009, according to two separate reports issued this week.”



MINNESOTA HEALTH PLAN BUMPER STICKERS ARE HERE!

Available at our office, our events, or by mail.
Suggested donation: \$1.00 each.

**PLEASE CONSIDER A CONTRIBUTION TO SUPPORT OUR ADVOCACY
WORK- [Donate Now](#)**

DONATE NOW