



## May- June 2009 Newsletter

### Single-Payer Summer Celebration and Fundraiser



Thursday, June 18, 2009

6:30-9:00 PM

At the University Club on the corner of Summit and Grand Avenue in St. Paul

Buffet dinner, cash bar, program and live auction

Featured speakers at the program are Dr. Oliver Fein, President of Physicians for a National Health Program, and Senator John Marty, Chief Senate Author of the Minnesota Health Act.

Special Musical Guests! Big Sunflower Jazz Quartet will be playing during dinner, and **Prudence Johnson** and **Dan Chouinard** will open our program.

Could there be any better way to spend a summer evening?

Please join us! Tickets are \$50 and are now available on line. Don't delay, this event will sell-out.

### Is Single-Payer On The Table?

Ever since U.S. Senate Finance Committee Chair Max Baucus (D-MT) pronounced single-payer “off the table” for serious consideration in Washington, advocates across the nation have mobilized to put single-payer “on the table.”

What does it mean to have single-payer “off the table?” It means that single-payer policy experts are not invited to hearings in Washington. It means that the Congressional Budget Office did not study single-payer (HR 676) in its cost assessment of health care reform proposals. It means that the reform favored by most American citizens, and most American physicians, is shut out of the conversation.

How does that sit with Americans? Not well. People are marching in the streets ([3000 in Seattle on May 30](#)), physicians are [being arrested](#), and letters to legislators are flooding in-boxes.

Is the message being heard? [The media is starting to notice](#). Legislators are arranging meetings with single-payer advocates. Single-payer advocates are re-inspired to creatively and collectively express their support for the reform we need. [Join us in the movement!](#) ([add to or update your contact information](#)). We will send you e-updates of critical calls to action at both the state and national level.



## The Legislature is Adjourned

The legislative session ended as required on May 18<sup>th</sup> at midnight. Many people are wondering- what happened and what does it mean? The Minnesota Health Plan had three hearings; it passed two committees in the Senate and was tabled in the House. We gained new co-authors and won votes from some unexpected legislators. A status update is available on the [MUHCC website](#).

Our lobbyists weigh in on the Budget mess:

Because of Governor Pawlenty's veto of the Budget Bill and promises to address, the looming \$2.7 billion budget deficit on his own, Minnesotans won't know the 2009 legislative session's impact on health care for a few weeks. That's despite the fact the legislature approved at least 25 health care related bills with the largest, the Health and Human Services Omnibus bill, being 415 pages long. [Read the full article](#)

## Take Action for the Minnesota Health Plan

[CONTRIBUTE](#) to the Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition- WE'VE MADE IT EASY! You can contribute by mail or make a secure online contribution. You can even make an automatic monthly donation right from your savings or checking account. Consider a contribution of \$10 per month- you won't notice the difference but it will add up for your favorite cause: single-payer health care for all. [Click now to give!](#)



Move the Minnesota Health Plan in the state House and Senate. Help us mobilize voters by participating in our phone banks. (We call it the "**Campaign** for the Minnesota Health Plan" for a reason.) [Find out more.](#)

Summer is a great time to **contact your legislator** in support of the Minnesota Health Plan. Legislators have more time to meet when they aren't caught up in the demands of the session. [Want some pointers?](#)

Did you notice a new look? We have a new e-newsletter program, but this look is temporary while we are learning.