



Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition

October 2009 E-Newsletter

Dear Friend,

We have delivered stacks of petitions and postcards to Senator Klobuchar and Franken and legislators at the State Capitol; **our message is unequivocal: health care is a human right and single-payer is the most equitable, efficient and cost effective way to guarantee health care for all.** All eyes are now on Congress as historic votes in the next several weeks will determine the breadth and scope of health insurance reform. There are some critical and fundamental details to reconcile among the various Senate and House proposals. The fear mongering and heated obstructionism of Republicans is backfiring, as [multiple polls](#) show that the vast majority of the public believe the Republican Party is putting politics ahead of the needs of people. Progressives are now taking to the streets and advocates around the country are engaging in civil disobedience to protest insurance company practices and to demand universal coverage. We can't let up; please bring your voice and energies to the cause!

Amy Lange

Executive Director

WHAT IS IN THOSE BILLS IN CONGRESS?

No doubt about it, the reform bills being debated in Congress are long and complex! There are currently three bills HR3200 the House Tri-Committee Bill proposed June 19th, the Senate HELP Bill proposed June 9th, and the Senate Finance Bill proposed September 16th. The two Senate bills will be reconciled and that final bill will be reconciled with the House version. Countless amendments will be introduced along the way. Here is a very brief overview of the fundamental provisions under debate:

Insurance Company Reforms: an end to rejection of people due to pre-existing conditions, gender based discrimination, policy rescission and lifetime caps on coverage.

Mandates: an individual mandate requiring everyone to have insurance or pay a fine and an employer mandate requiring employers to offer coverage or pay into a subsidy fund.

Subsidies and Affordability Standards: Public subsidies for low income people and caps on out of pocket-expenses.

Health Insurance Exchange: National, regional or state exchanges for individuals and small employers to compare and purchase insurance.

Medicaid Expansion: Increasing Medicaid eligibility

Public Option: A public insurance plan "public option" exists in the HELP and Tri-Committee bills but not the Finance Committee bill.

There are also significant differences in **financing** and cost containment. Floor votes are expected before Thanksgiving.

[The Kaiser Foundation](#) is one of the best sources for updates and bill comparisons.

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

Protests and Arrests Take Place in the Metro and Around the Country

[Health Care for America Now](#) (HCAN), promoting the public option, and [Healthcare-NOW](#), in conjunction with [Mobilization for Health Care For All](#), promoting single-payer, have been organizing protests around the country. They are advocating non-violent civil disobedience to protest insurance companies which profit by denying people care.

Seventeen were arrested on September 29th at Aetna in [New York City](#)

Six were arrested in [Minnetonka](#) at United Health Care

Seven were arrested at Cigna in [Chicago](#)

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

T. R. Reid: 5 Myths About Health Care Around the World

T.R. Reid, correspondent, for the Washington Post and Frontline Special *Sick Around the World*, and author of *The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care*, addresses myths about health care around the world and what the U.S. can learn. [Read the full article](#)

Congressman Alan Grayson (D-FL) unveils the Republican Health Care Plan: Don't Get Sick

In a short but impassioned speech on the House floor, Rep Alan Grayson challenges Republicans' obstructionism and unveils their plan: "Don't get sick, and if you do get sick, die quickly". Watch [Grayson's speech](#), his appearance on [The Situation Room](#) defending his statements, and his subsequent [apology to the dead](#).

CONTACT CONGRESS TO SUPPORT SINGLE-PAYER – IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

**YES TO WEINER AMENDMENT (MEDICARE FOR ALL), YES TO KUCINICH AMENDMENT
(ALLOWING STATES TO DEVELOP SINGLE PAYER PLANS)**



For more background and contact information see our [September Newsletter](#)

Mobilize for the Minnesota Health Plan Advocacy and Organizing Training

Don't miss our popular training, co-sponsored by TakeAction Minnesota!

Saturday October 31st, 10:00-3:00 at the Rochester Senior Center, Rochester Minnesota

Over 100 people have participated in previous trainings where they have learned the "facts", addressed challenging questions, developed advocacy skills and stepped up as leaders.

[For complete details](#)

[Downloadable flyer](#)

[Register NOW](#)

YOU'RE INVITED

Healthcare Forum- Education Workshop

Tuesday October 13, 2009 5:30-8:00 p.m. at Mora Public Library

Sponsored by Seven County Senior Federation

Hazardous to your Health- Racial Disparities in Health Care

Wednesday October 14th, 7:00 p.m. at St Catherine University in St. Paul

Sponsored by PNHP-MN and St. Catherine University

Single-Payer Health Care- Costs and Benefits

Thursday October 15 2009, 7:00 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato

Sponsored by Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato

Phonebank for the Minnesota Health Plan

Wednesday October 21st, 6:00-8:00 at MUHCC 2469 University Ave W, St. Paul

Take part in the Campaign for the Minnesota Health Plan

Health Care for All- The Minnesota Health Plan

Thursday October 29, 6:30-8:30 at Northfield Community Resource Center

Sponsored by Northfield citizen activists

[Check our calendar](#) for a complete listing of events and details

DID YOU HEAR?

Research Estimates 45,000 Die Each Year Due to Lack of Insurance

A study to be published in the December 2009 issue of American Journal of Public Health is getting a lot of advanced press. According to the research, 45,000 people each year die as a result of lack of insurance. This is after adjustments for race, income, education, body mass index and a host of other factors affecting health. To download a copy of the article and see a state by state analysis, [click here](#)

AFL-CIO Unanimously Endorsed Single-Payer Health Care

In a historic vote on September 16, 2009 AFL-CIO voted unanimously at its national convention to endorse single-payer universal health care in the United States. It was the first time in two decades that the union has gone on record in support of single payer. In urging support, Rose Ann DeMoro, an AFL-CIO National Vice-President, noted the recent death of Crystal Lee Sutton, the real-life union organizer from the film Norma Rae who died the previous week after a long battle with cancer, exacerbated by her own three-year fight with her insurance company. [Read more](#)

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