



Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition

September 2009 E-Newsletter

Dear Friend,

We **too** set a record at the state fair this year. Fifty three MUHCC volunteers staffed a "single-payer table" 10 hours a day for all 12 days. We answered thousands of questions, and faced plenty of criticism. While discouraged by the tone and misinformation of our opponents (such as the one senior who said, "Obama wants to kill me"), we were encouraged by the number of people ready to step up and support single-payer. We collected over 2500 signatures on a petition to Senators Klobuchar and Franken, seeking their support of federal reform that enables states to enact their own single-payer systems, and we gathered hundreds of postcards to be given to our state legislators in support of the Minnesota Health Plan. The fair is closed for the year, but health care reform is far from settled. Now is the time to jump in and work to create the health care system we need. Please read on to find out how. Join us!

Amy Lange
Executive Director

OBAMA TO STUMP FOR HEALTH CARE IN MINNEAPOLIS SATURDAY

President Barack Obama will be visiting the **Target Center** in downtown Minneapolis on **Saturday September 12th** to drum up support for health care reform, according to a White House press release. **Doors will open at 9:30 a.m.** at the Target Center and the event is free and open to the public. No ticket is required. The program is scheduled to begin at 12:30 p.m. Check our website for up to date details on possible options for volunteering with us.

The Mad as Hell Doctors' Caravan is Coming to Minnesota

A caravan of physicians will cross America to deliver a clear and simple message to our elected officials in Washington on September 30th: **Health care for people - not profit!** The doctors left Portland Oregon on September 8th and will arrive in Washington DC on September 30th spreading their single-payer message along the way. Join MUHCC and Physicians for a National Health Program-MN in support of the Mad as Hell Doctors on Wednesday September 16th.

Three events are planned:

Mankato Rally at 11:00 a.m.,

State Capitol Rotunda Rally at 3:00 p.m.

Lecture, St. Catherine' University at 7:00 p.m.

Health care providers are encouraged to wear scrubs, lab coats and stethoscopes to the rally.

[For full information](#)

[Download a flyer](#)

[Follow the Mad as Hell caravan](#)



Single-Payer "Medicare for All" to get Historic Vote in House.

As we wrote in our August newsletter, Speaker Pelosi promised a full floor vote on Rep Weiner's (D-NY) amendment to substitute HR676 (the Conyer's single-payer bill) for the text of HR3200 (the current House reform bill). This vote is supposed to be held in September. We must hold Pelosi to this promise and ask our MN delegation to support it.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi 202-225-0100 <http://www.speaker.gov/contact>

CD1 Tim Walz -1-877-TIM WALZ http://walz.house.gov/zip_auth.shtm

CD 2 John Kline <http://kline.house.gov/?sectionid=7§iontree=4,7> 952-808-1213

CS 3 Erik Paulsen <http://paulsen.house.gov/index.cfm?sectionid=3§iontree=3> 952-405-8510
CD 4 Betty McCollum http://forms.house.gov/mccollum/webforms/issue_subscribe.htm 651-224-9191
CD 5 Keith Ellison https://forms.house.gov/ellison/webforms/issue_subscribe.htm 612-522-1212
CD 6 Michelle Bachmann <http://bachmann.house.gov/Contact/ZipCode.htm> 651-731-5400
CD 7 Collin Peterson <http://collinpeterson.house.gov/zipauth.htm> 202-225-2165
CD 8 Jim Oberstar <http://wwwc.house.gov/oberstar/zipauth.htm> 218-727-7474

Please also ask your Representative to support the “Kucinich amendment” allowing states to develop their own single-payer plans.

YES TO WEINER AMENDMENT, YES TO KUCINICH AMENDMENT

For more information: <http://pnhp.org/amendment/>



WE COULDN'T SAY IT BETTER OURSELVES

Nicholas Kristof on Health Care That Works

...The truth is that government, for all its flaws, manages to do some things right, so that today few people doubt the wisdom of public police or firefighters...the biggest weakness of private industry is not inefficiency but unfairness. The business model of private insurance has become, in part, to collect premiums from healthy people and reject those likely to get sick — or, if they start out healthy and then get sick, to find a way to cancel their coverage... [Read the full post](#)

“Let Us Buy into Medicare” Thom Hartmann Writes the President, MUHCC writes Congressional Delegation “We Agree”.

On August 17th Thom Hartmann published a letter to President Obama. It starts “I understand you’re thinking of dumping your ‘public option’ because of all the demagoguery by Sarah Palin and Dick Arme y and Newt Gingrich and their crowd on right-wing radio and Fox. Fine. Good idea, in fact. Instead, let’s make it simple. Please let us buy into Medicare. It would be so easy. You don’t have to reinvent the wheel with this so-called ‘public option’ that’s a whole new program from the ground up. Medicare already exists. It works.” [Read the full letter:](#)

Bill Moyers keeps telling it like it is

Bill Moyers has devoted his PBS Program *Bill Moyers Journal* to the subject of health care for most of the summer. [Watch his closing plea](#) September 4th to President Obama to follow through on health care promises.

[Watch his interview](#) with Bill Maher from August 28th. Moyers states: “We are the only western democracy that has not embraced universal health care as a means of social justice.”

DID YOU HEAR?

Pfizer Faces Largest Fine in US History for Health Care Fraud

The U.S. pharmaceutical company, Pfizer, has agreed to pay \$2.3 **BILLION** for promotion of off-label use of pharmaceutical products after FDA had declined approval due to safety concerns. As part of the settlement, Pfizer also has agreed to enter into a corporate integrity agreement with the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services. [Read the news release](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Congressman Walz Hosts Rochester Town Hall on Health Insurance Reform

Saturday September 12th, 12:00-2:00 at John Marshall High School, 1510 14th St NW, Rochester. Doors open 11:30. We suggest you arrive by 10:30 the latest.

How to Provide Health Care For All Without Breaking the Bank

Thursday Sept 17th, 6:30 pm at the Brookdale Library, 6125 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center MN. Dr Morrison Hodges and Dr Susan Hasti will speak on single-payer and the Minnesota Health Plan. [More information here](#)

What is the Faith Community's Role in Health Care Reform?

September 27 2009, 6:30-8:30 pm at Gloria Dei Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave
St Paul, MN 55116. Senator John Marty, Chief Author of the MN health Plan will be one of the panelists. [For more information](#)

Mobilize for the Minnesota Health Plan Activist Training

Our dynamic training on the Minnesota Health Plan and single-payer health care will be held October 31st 10:00-3:00 in 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 available on the website soon along with on-line registration

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

DONATE NOW

WE CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU



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