



# MINNESOTA UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE COALITION

## August 2009 E-NEWSLETTER

Dear Friend,

Even those of us in the trenches couldn't have imagined the explosion of interest and passion seen in the health care reform "debate" this summer. Sure, we anticipated it would get ugly, but not *this* ugly. The health care industry is spending [\\$1.4 million dollars a day](#) to lobby Congress to maintain the status quo.

[Lobbyist-run front groups](#) such as FreedomWorks, American's for Prosperity, and Conservatives for Patients Rights, are underwriting efforts of astroturf (fake grassroots) protests. The [polls have shown strong support](#) for a health care overhaul but [that support is waning](#). While the debate is raging, 14,000 people per day are losing insurance coverage, and even more are facing health coverage insecurity. Use the August recess to speak out, show up and give your energy to the cause. Take action today; call or write your Congressperson and our two Senators express your support for single payer. Let your representative know that you support the **Kucinich amendment** and the **Weiner amendment**. Ask our senators to introduce similar legislation in the Senate. The time is NOW!

*Amy Lange*, Executive Director

### Kucinich's amendment passes committee, would allow states to adopt single-payer plans!!

On July 17<sup>th</sup>, the House Education and Labor Committee voted 27-19 with bipartisan support in favor of Rep. Dennis Kucinich's (D-OH) amendment to HR 3200 (the House health reform bill) to allow states to enact single-payer plans. Some Republicans, including Congressman John Kline (CD 2) see this as a state's rights issue. Ask [Senator Franken](#) to sponsor the same amendment in the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. [Read more about the vote](#). [Download the amendment](#). [Download a petition](#). (Please return completed petitions to MUHCC via mail, or scanned via email [info@muhcc.org](mailto:info@muhcc.org))

### HR 676: Expanded "Medicare-for-All" to get full floor vote in House this September

Speaker Nancy Pelosi has promised a floor debate and a full House vote on the national single-payer bill, HR 676. Thanks to Rep. Weiner (D-NY) whose proposed amendment to replace HR 3200 with HR 676 was heard! This will be the first time in our nation's history that single-payer will be voted on in the Congress. Contact your representative now and let them know you support HR 676! [Letter and more information here](#).

### Obama rebukes critics for spreading misinformation

... "So, let me explain what reform will mean for you. And let me start by dispelling the outlandish rumors that reform will promote euthanasia, cut Medicaid, or bring about a government takeover of health care. That's simply not true. This isn't about putting government in charge of your health insurance; it's about putting you in charge of your health insurance." Watch the [video here](#). The White House has launched [a myth buster website](#).

### Obama's Personal Physician Supports Single-Payer Health Care

Dr. David Scheiner, Obama's personal physician for over two decades, speaks out on single-payer. Read his [statement here](#)

## We've got our eyes on Minnesota

Short of a national single-payer plan, any other reform enacted at the national level will not be able to provide **universal** coverage and control costs. MUHCC therefore remains dedicated to enacting the single-payer Minnesota Health Act (SF 118/HF 135). Over 1/3 of the MN Legislature has signed on to the bill. If you haven't contacted your legislator yet, now is the time to do so! Find your legislator [here](#). And, ask the gubernatorial candidates if they will support The Minnesota Health Act. [Check our website for resources](#) to help you with advocacy.

## For some refreshing perspective

Enjoy the following reads, because it never hurts to have a dose of laughter along with the indignation.

- Bill Maher: [Not everything has to make a profit](#)
- Bob Cesca: [Keep your government hands off my Medicare](#)

## Mad as Hell Doctors- this Fall, the Rubber Gloves Meet the Road

A caravan of physicians will cross America to deliver a clear and simple message to our elected officials in Washington: Health care for people - not profit! The [Mad as Hell Doctors](#) will be in the Twin Cities on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Watch for details on the MUHCC website in the next couple weeks.

## Health Care on a Stick?

No, But it **is** Time for “**The Great Minnesota Get-Together**”

Volunteer at the Minnesota State Fair and Demonstrate Support for Single-Payer Health Care!

August 27th- September 6th

Shifts: 9-11:00 am, 11am-1 pm, 1-3 pm, 3-5 pm, 5-7 pm daily

We will be writing postcards and collecting signatures on petitions.

[Let us know how many shifts you are willing to volunteer and which times you are available](#). We will confirm your schedule. Training will be available. We regret that MUHCC is not able to provide or reimburse for entrance fees.



## Please support the movement!

We know we can't match the millions in the industry's coffers but we can't do this on volunteer efforts alone.

[Please give today](#) to support the work of the Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition. MUHCC accepts donations of any size, by check, or credit card, one time, or recurring donations. Fed up with the status quo?

[Give now!](#) Thank you!



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