

We Owe It To All Workers

The Labor Movement has a special responsibility to aggressively address the social injustice of a broken health care system. Health care should be a right, not a privilege.

Health Care Bargaining Is Busted

No union today can engage in collective bargaining without facing a demand or hard choices regarding health care coverage in our contracts. The disproportionate costs of health insurance at the bargaining table have significantly depressed our member's wages despite the productivity gains their work has produced. 'Reform' proposals which include a continuation of for-profit insurance companies, whose interests are counter to and often destructive of ours, will not adequately control costs or improve the international competitiveness of U.S. based employers.

A **Single-Payer health care system** will provide a major stimulus to the economy, create millions of new jobs, positively increase the national GDP, and create billions in new tax revenues. But it's the pain and suffering that it will relieve that really counts!

For Real Reform —
HR 676 & SB 703

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LABOR CAMPAIGN FOR SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE

*Working to bring all labor together on
the most fundamental struggle for social
justice in our generation—making
health care a right for all in America.*



San Francisco Healthcare Rally © Photo Courtesy David H. Ford

*Our struggle for universal, affordable
health care for all can not be won in the halls
of Congress alone. The enemies of true re-
form hold most of the power there.*

*It must be won at the grassroots—in the
workplaces and communities of our members
and all workers. A publicly supported, single-
payer "Medicare for All" system, as in so
many other industrialized countries, is the
only answer!*

*The fight for social justice is never a sprint.
It's always a marathon!*

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The Labor Campaign for Single-Payer Health Care

On January 10-12, 2009, more than 150 union leaders from 31 states gathered in St. Louis to launch a grassroots campaign throughout labor to enact comprehensive single-payer national healthcare reform which would work like an improved and expanded Medicare program to cover everyone.

The national kick-off meeting was spearheaded by scores of trade union organizations that had already endorsed the national single-payer bill, HR 676, which was being reintroduced in Congress by Congressman John Conyers along with dozens of House co-sponsors. The bill now has 87 House sponsors. HR 676 has been endorsed by 39 state AFL-CIO federations, 134 Central Labor Councils, and more than 450 local unions.



Unionists at January founding conference of Labor Campaign for Single-Payer in St. Louis.

Health Care Is A Right, Not A Privilege

Speakers at the conference included three members of the national AFL-CIO Executive Council, three AFL-CIO state federation presidents, three Central Labor Council presidents along with many other major union leaders.

Over the course of two days, delegates vigorously discussed strategies to promote single payer reform while also developing the new campaign's mission statement, governance structure and a grassroots action plan. These documents are available at:

www.laborforsinglepayer.org.

Gaining Momentum

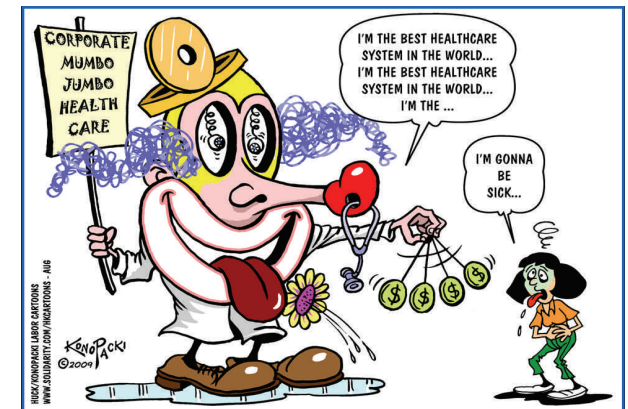
The Labor Campaign for Single-Payer Health Care has made significant progress in the months since January. We expanded the effort into states and communities where other Federations and CLC have previously endorsed HR 676 but not begun to mobilize around its passage.

Equally important has been LCS-P's growing alliance with other national and local Single-Payer supporting organizations. Health care activists in community after community have welcomed the LCS-P organizing experience and resources with renewed enthusiasm.

The time is always right to do what is right
Martin Luther King, Jr.

No Honor Among Thieves

Congressional leaders made a strategic bargaining error in the healthcare reform debate by taking single-payer off the table. It should have surprised no one when the predatory for-profit insurance companies and their corporate allies used this opening to attack all serious proposals for reform. Now even the legislative fate of a modest Public Option is in doubt.



Labor must resist this corporate attempt to hijack healthcare reform but we also must look beyond today's setbacks and political treachery. Whatever the outcome of this year's legislative fights, **Labor—from the grassroots to its highest offices—must set a course that will establish healthcare as a right for everyone. We believe the ultimate solution must be a Single-Payer system.**