

# Labor Campaign for Single-Payer Health Care

## Resolution of Continuation

March 6, 2010

### The Struggle Goes On!

The election of President Obama and strong Democratic majorities in both houses of Congress in 2008 raised the long dormant expectation of a comprehensive overhaul of our nation's crippled health care system. Months before the election, with its outcome far from certain, a group of labor activists with primarily regional and local responsibilities began a series of discussions which led to a national conference call to establish a grassroots Labor Campaign for Single-Payer Health Care. On January 10-12, 2009, in St. Louis, 150 conference participants from all parts of the country, representing national unions, State Feds, CLC's, and local unions unanimously launched the new Labor Campaign for Single-Payer.

One fundamental consideration to the leaders gathered at the St. Louis meeting was the historically debilitating lack of unity within the labor movement around the need for a universal, comprehensive, and, widely endorsed, single-payer system like the one so successful in Canada. The LCS-P approved [Mission Statement](#) (see reverse side) to formally establish a grassroots campaign in pursuit of that solution as best exemplified in HR 676 the "Medicare for All" legislation introduced by Congressman John Conyers and endorsed by almost one-hundred members of the U. S. House of Representatives. A plan of action was also adopted along with a national Advisory Board and a working Steering Committee made up of 36 diverse union leaders from all parts of the country.

Events over the past year, in which Congress produced a bound-to-fail, toxic healthcare reform proposal, leaving the greed-driven insurance industry firmly in control, have more than justified the formation and work of the Campaign. With a minimal budget and staff, LCS-P helped propel the existing labor support base for single-payer into a broader network of communicating activists and labor bodies. We became a clearinghouse of vital information—a voice for unity and grassroots mobilization and a critical resource for other, non-labor, single-payer advocacy groups. LCS-P, along with other existing national labor proponents of single-payer and HR 676, played an instrumental role in promoting the unanimously adopted "Social Insurance" Resolution at the September AFL-CIO Convention in Pittsburgh.

### Gearing Up For The Road Ahead

Over the coming year, as the inadequacies, as well as additional hardships resulting from the failure to truly reform health care destroys the lives and livelihood of more and more working people, labor's need for unity around the "Medicare for All" solution and political solidarity to advance that agenda—the grassroots mobilizing and educating activities—will be that much more essential. LCS-P is uniquely positioned to:

- Expand, inform, and further connect the growing network of Single-Payer labor bodies at the grassroots.
- Extend material and strategic support to State Single-Payer legislative initiatives and share updates.
- Produce critical educational materials for membership and working community consumption and use.
- Analyze and share information the continued crippling impact on bargaining under the current for-profit system

**Therefore, Be It Resolved;** that the Labor Campaign for Single-Payer Health Care carry on its important work and stated mission, adjusting to the increasing demands of workers and families trapped in the downward economic spiral of desperation made worse by an inhumane health care system and, in the spirit and intent of AFL-CIO Resolution 34, continue to play a vital grassroots role in the ongoing struggle for health care justice in this country.

**Be It Further Resolved;** that the leaders of the LCS-P will engage creatively in the expansion of the Campaign's outreach within all labor and in the greater community of single-payer allies, and that all involved will do their utmost to secure and provide both the Ways and the Means to carry out this important work.