

LABOR CAMPAIGN FOR SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE

Healthcare Is A Right - Not a Privilege

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June 3, 2009

Honorable <First name> <Last name>
Member U.S. House of Representatives

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Dear Representative <last name>,

As the work on long overdue Health Care Reform advances in both Houses of Congress, this letter is just one way of saying 'thanks' to you for your co-sponsorship and support of HR 676 and to ask that you continue to vigorously make the case for enactment of the Single Payer solution. Support for real reform is building at the grassroots. Your membership in the 'Single Payer Caucus' of the House is critical to that growing support.

We write you today as representatives of a very large caucus of our own—the nationwide grassroots **Labor Campaign for a Single-Payer Healthcare System (LCS-P)**. Single-Payer legislation and HR 676, has been endorsed by 39 of the 50 State Federations of Labor, well over 120 of the largest Central Labor Councils, and hundreds of other labor bodies representing millions of workers throughout America. On January 10, 2009, those millions of workers gained a new voice as LCS-P was formally launched. We are now adding strength and political activism to long-standing and new Single-Payer coalitions in communities across the country.

President Obama has called for a substantive reform of the nation's healthcare system and we understand that both the House and Senate leadership have placed Health Care Reform on a fast track for consideration this year. We applaud the President's call and the initiative of the Congressional leadership on the issue but reject concerted efforts to banish Single Payer from the policy debate. A substantial majority of the American people oppose merely bandaging the current broken system in an effort to placate so many of the agents of its dysfunction. Fear of a Single-Payer, "Medicare for All" system is gripping Wall Street and K Street, not the majority of the folks on Main Street.

One of the myths that opponents of Single-Payer peddle is that most people are satisfied with the insurance they currently have. Excusing the millions mentioned above who have none to be satisfied with, many of us are involved in contract negotiations and have seen the downward spiral of quality, affordable protection in employer-based health insurance plans. The costs of these plans has shifted heavily to the employees. Our members know that Medicare, which for over 40 years has served post-65 citizens at one-tenth of administrative costs of private insurance, works very well and provides choice of physicians, hospitals, and provider services.

Your support for HR 676 is a beacon of hope to millions. The Labor Campaign for Single-Payer is active in numerous Congressional Districts of Members with sizeable labor union membership who have yet to co-sponsor HR 676. We encourage you to reach out to those colleagues, particularly within your State delegations and others within affinity caucuses that you belong to in the Congress. You have consistently earned our members respect and support in the past and we truly appreciate your ongoing stewardship of our interests on healthcare and other issues.

Respectfully Submitted:

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