

Dear Healthcare Now Committee:

On June 19th, Healthcare-Now organized a very successful National Day of Protest against the Insurance Industry. The day of protest was planned to coincide with the American Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) Conference in San Francisco. The conference hosted 38,000 health insurance executives. Rallies were held in 18 cities across the country - San Francisco CA, Louisville KY, Pittsburgh PA, Philadelphia PA, Harrisburg PA, New York City NY, Minnetonka MN, Oklahoma City OK, Jacksonville FL, Chicago IL, Indianapolis IN, San Antonio TX, Newark NJ, Atlanta GA, St. Louis MO, Albany NY, Boston MA and Baltimore MD. Following is a link to [one video](#) of the 19 filmed that Day.

Our new Win-Win national campaign kicked off earlier this month. This is the campaign in a nutshell: By passing HR 676, The U.S. National Health Insurance Act, not only will all Americans *Win* by having guaranteed national health insurance, delivered in the most fiscally responsible way, but state and local government will *Win* by saving billions annually. Nationwide 70 Billion dollars annually in health care savings. HR 676 will provide significant financial relief for fiscally strapped state and local governments, freeing up money to underwrite the growing challenges they face. A Win for our citizens, taxpayers, and state/local governments. The campaign brochures will be available in the Patriots' office beginning July 8th. The brochure can be viewed [here](#).

July is Healthcare-Now's Health Care Action month. Our Committee will be making office visits to Congressman Stephen LaTourette's (OH-14) office in Painesville, Bill O'Neill's (candidate for OH-14) new office in Wickliffe, and Senator Sherrod Brown's office in Cleveland. We will be delivering a Medicare birthday cake and the latest campaign literature from Healthcare-Now and PNHP. A national call-in day to your Congressional representatives will be on July 30th, the 43rd birthday of Medicare. The blue postcards that we have been distributing and collecting with your endorsement for HR 676 will be mailed to Congress this month. Please make sure to read our Committee action plan for July listed below and take action!

Following is our July campaign update and action plan. No e-mail update is planned for August. Have a great summer,

Jill Levine, Co-Chair
Healthcare Now Committee
Patriots for Change
PNHP Ohio

Campaign Update as of June 28

Endorsements have been rolling in this month. The [US Conference of Mayors](#) (representing cities with a population of 30,000 or more), the [New York State Assembly](#), 8 additional union organizations, 2 Central Labor Councils and Area Labor Federations, and the Michigan state AFL-CIO are all new endorsers. Also, an international endorsement from the Puerto Rican SEIU convention this month brings our total international union endorsements to thirteen. (Other international unions that have endorsed HR 676 are UAW, NEA, ILWU, NALC, IAM, Plumbers & Pipefitters (UA), Musicians (AFM), UE, CNA/NNOC, SMWIA, IFPTE & OPEIU.) HR 676, with 90 co-sponsors, has been endorsed by 435 union organizations in 48 states including 110 Central Labor Councils and Area Labor Federations and 34 state AFL-CIOs. (KY, PA, CT, OH, DE, ND, WA, SC, WY, VT, FL, WI, WV, SD, NC, MO, MN, ME, AR, MD-DC, TX, IA, AZ, TN, OR, GA, OK, KS, CO, IN, AL, CA, AK & MI). [Read the co-sponsors, bill text, and committee action.](#)

Committee Action Plan for July 2008

- We are asking all Committee members to please show their support for HR 676 by filling out one of the blue postcards that we have been distributing & collecting. All postcards will be mailed in to Congress at the end of the month. Post cards will be available July 8th in the Patriots' office. E-mail Ray, healthcareforall@mac.com for some postcards or if you would like more info.
- Our Committee will be going to Steven LaTourette, Sherrod Brown and Bill O'Neill's office with a Medicare Birthday cake and the latest Win-Win campaign literature from Healthcare-Now and PNHP. We encourage every committee member to attend these scheduled meetings. E-mail Ray, healthcareforall@mac.com if you would like to make a Congressional office visit with our group.
- July 30th is the National Call-In Day for Medicare's 43rd Birthday. People all over the country will be calling their Congressional representatives. [Contact your member of Congress toll-free, 1-866-338-1015](#) and tell them to support HR 676, or "Happy 43rd Birthday Medicare. Now it's time for Expanded and Improved Medicare for All. Please support HR 676."
- [Save this Date](#) - September 26 will be the 2nd Annual Health Care Justice Vigil in Washington, D.C. A group from the Cleveland area will be attending and all committee members are encouraged to attend. When we receive the details for this event, we will post them on a webpage and send a separate e-mail out to all. E-mail Ray, healthcareforall@mac.com if you would like more information.

- Dr. Paul Hochfeld has offered to come to our area and personally lead the discussion on his new video "Health Money & Fear" which was shown at the Boston International Film Festival in June. This video explores the many reasons our health care system costs so much, what this says about us, and what we can do about it. More information on his video can be found [here](#). Consider hosting a house party or schedule a showing of his movie for your group or other organization. E-mail Jill, chagrin-healthcarenow@usa.net for more information.
- Another video we have on hand is the PBS documentary series [Unnatural Causes...is inequality making us sick?](#) This video series has seven episodes each located in a different racial /ethnic community and focused on a different health pathway. Wealth, racism, immigrant life, Native American societies, residential zip codes, and job loss are some of the featured episode topics. This series aired on PBS in March and April of this year and "explores how population health is shaped by the social and economic conditions in which we are born, live and work. It confronts the inadequacy of conventional explanations like genetics, individual behaviors or even access to quality health care. This video series reframes the health debate in America - Social inequities and their health consequences are not natural or inevitable. Changing policies and practices can help improve outcomes and save lives. Other nations have already made such changes and they now enjoy longer, healthier lives as a result." -*2008 California Newsreel*. E-mail Ray, healthcareforall@mac.com if you would like more information or to schedule a showing.
- We need to continue writing letters to the editor of our local papers on the latest HR 676 campaign news. [Write one letter and send it to all the media in our area](#). Contact the health care reporter for your local paper and tell them your opinion. Our grassroots voices are making a difference in Congressional caucuses, so keep those letters coming!
- Phone, Fax, or E-mail these Committee Chairs now. Phone 1-866-544-7573, to call the congressional switchboard.
Click on the links below to e-mail a letter.
Speaker Nancy Pelosi: phone: 202-225-4965 fax: 202-225 8259 [e-mail](#)
Chairman Charles Rangel, head of the House Ways and Means Committee:
phone: 202-225-4365 fax: 202-225-0816 email: constituents only
Sub Committee on Health Chairman Fortney Stark:
phone: 202-225-5065 fax: 202-226-3805 [e-mail](#)
[Select compose your own letter - found at the very end of option list.](#)
Chairman John Dingell of the Energy & Commerce Committee:
phone: 202-225-4071 fax: 202-226-0371 email: constituents only

- Write to your members of Congress. [E-mail 1 letter to all now](#) ... Enter your zip code and select compose your own message to federal officials. ([PNHP sample letter.](#))

Main District Office contact info:

George Voinovich: Phone: (614) 469-6697 Fax: (614) 469-7733 [e-mail](#)

Sherrod Brown: Phone: (202) 224-2315 Fax: (202) 224-6519 [e-mail](#)

We need our bill to be introduced in the Senate: [Speak out to Sherrod.](#)
[Read his position on single payer health care reform.](#)

Steven LaTourette: Phone: (440) 352-3939 Fax: (440) 352-3622 [e-mail](#)
[Read his position on health reform.](#)

Stephanie Tubbs Jones: Phone: (216) 522-4900 Fax: (216) 522-4908 [e-mail](#)
[Read her HR 676 endorsement.](#)

HR 676 would cover every person in the U. S. for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs, hospital, surgical, outpatient services, primary and preventive care, emergency services, mental health, home health, physical therapy, rehabilitation (including for substance abuse), vision care, hearing, dental, chiropractic and long term care. HR 676 ends deductibles and co-payments. HR 676 would save billions annually by eliminating the high overhead and profits of the private health insurance industry while negotiating fair and reasonable drug prices through bulk purchasing of prescription drugs.