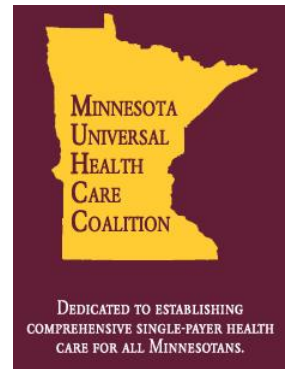




Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition *Campaign for the Minnesota Health Plan*



December 2010 E-Newsletter

Dear Friends,

While we await the completion of the gubernatorial recount, momentum for single-payer health care is in full swing in other states, and critical ground work continues to be built in Minnesota. Several MUHCC members attended national conferences in November ([Healthcare-NOW](#) in PA and [PNHP](#) in Denver) inspired by the collaborative movement of states to work together to enact state-based single-payer. Keep an eye on Vermont (see below).

In Minnesota our base-building continues with [speaking tours](#) ([more coverage](#)), and a new monthly lecture and training series (see below). Though the recount continues, Dayton's lead holds, and we are communicating with the transition team about the path to single-payer. This is a good time to [let Governor-Elect Dayton know](#) that you want single-payer to be a priority in his administration. Let your voice be heard on the Minnesota Health Plan!

Amy Lange
Executive Director

URGENT ACTION: CALL CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE WYDEN-BROWN AMENDMENT!!

Last week, Sens. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Scott Brown (R-Mass.) introduced **S3958**, the “**Empowering States to Innovate Act**,” amending Section 1332 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). **This amendment would remove a critical barrier for state single-payer.** Section 1332 of the federal health reform bill, passed last March, allows states to apply for waivers to the mandated health insurance exchanges if the state develops an alternative plan that meets or exceeds PPACA on access/ coverage, benefits and affordability. Unfortunately PPACA prohibits granting of these waivers until 2017, 3 years after the exchanges are set to go into effect. The Wyden/Brown legislation would allow states to propose their alternatives now and start implementing them in 2014, rather than investing time and money setting up a structure that they don't plan to use. **Please call Senator Franken and Senator Klobuchar and ask them to support the Wyden-Brown Amendment S3958. Ask your Congressman/Congresswoman to introduce a companion amendment in the House.** Call the Capitol Switchboard toll-free at 866-220-0044 and you will be connected to your Senators and Representatives. **Let's get this passed in the lame duck session!!**

[Read More](#) [Read the 2 Page Bill](#) Download [Explanation](#) and [Talking Points](#)

VERMONT NEEDS OUR HELP

Vermont is poised to enact single-payer, and we know that opposition forces will become louder and stronger as the reality nears. Activists in Vermont have put out a request to single-payer supporters nationwide to financially support their effort. If you are interested and able to do so, please visit the websites of the 3 grassroots groups leading the movement: <http://www.workerscenter.org/> <http://vermontforsinglepayer.org/home> <http://www.universalhealthvt.org/>
Feel free to contact [Amy Lange](#) for more information.

JOSEPH STIGLITZ NOBEL WINNING ECONOMIST- ON SINGLE-PAYER

“The US model of private health insurers has been proven inefficient and expensive. Insurance companies have a very strong incentive to do cream skinning. They make more money figuring out the high cost and low cost people. Rather than provide better healthcare at lower costs, insurance companies innovate at finding better ways of discrimination. They are inefficient because they are trying to figure out how to insure people who don't need the cover and keep out people who need it. With many companies, they also need to spend on marketing and advertising. The incentives are all wrong” ... From an interview in *The Times of India*, November 26, 2010. [Read more](#)

THE LATEST REPORTS

High Deductible Health Plans Lead to Unmet Health Care Needs

A study published last month in the [Archives of Internal Medicine](#) reports an increasing number of non-elderly adults purchasing high deductible insurance (because of lower premiums) leading to high rates of delayed or forgone care. Forty-Two percent of high income and 57% of low income families with at least \$500 annual out of pocket costs delayed or skipped health care due to cost. These rates were substantially higher than the 20% of the US population reporting either unmet need or delayed care in the 2007 Health Tracking Household Survey. The conclusion: Reform legislation that establishes an individual health insurance mandate is expected to lead more families to purchase high-deductible insurance. **Editorial Comment:** Studies suggest that this self-rationing is a detriment to health- especially for people with low incomes or chronic disease.

More than 100 million worldwide pushed into poverty each year due to illness or medical bills

The World Health Organization released a report in November [stating in part](#), “the need for universal health coverage “has never been greater” with the economic slowdown, globalization of disease and aging populations that need more care for chronic conditions. “If health systems do not find the right answers now, the bill further down the line is going to keep getting higher and bigger.” The most successful health care systems in Europe, Japan, Chile, Mexico, Rwanda and Thailand are based on pooled resources, helping to spread the financing burden. Since 2005, the WHO's 192 member states have decreed that everyone should have access to health services and no one should suffer financial hardship as a result.

CO-CHAIRS OF PHYSICIANS FOR A NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM-MINNESOTA WIN NATIONAL AWARD

Elizabeth Frost MD (left) and Ann Settgast MD (right), founders and Co-Chairs of PNHP-MN received the *Quentin Young Health Activist Award* at the National PNHP Conference in Denver in November, for their success in organizing a state chapter of nearly 500 physicians. They are an inspiration to other states and to us! Thank you and Congratulations Elizabeth and Ann!



CAMPAIGN FOR THE MINNESOTA HEALTH PLAN TRAININGS AND PRESENTATIONS

Comparing the MN Health Plan to the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Why Reform is Not Yet Complete!

Tuesday December 7th

6:30-8:00 p.m.

at MUHCC

2469 University Ave W

St. Paul MN 55114

[Sign up to attend](#)

Lobbying 101- What Does It Mean To Lobby?

How Can You Engage Your Elected Representatives On Single-Payer?

Saturday January 8th

10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
at MUHCC
2469 University Ave W
St. Paul MN 55114
[Sign up to attend](#)

All Events Free of Charge- Everyone Welcome- Registration Requested

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Office-Administrative Help- 2-4 hours per week, [contact us](#) if interested.

Community Organizing Committee- join our grassroots organizing and outreach team, [contact us](#) if interested.

WATCH THIS!!

Donna Smith, National Nurses United and Wendell Potter, Insurance Company Whistle Blower, expose the insurance industry on [Grit TV](#)

Wendell Potter and Michael Moore Meet on Keith Olbermann: [Part One](#), [Part Two](#)

Amy Goodman [speaking](#) at the Physicians for a National Health Program National Conference



Healthcare-NOW 2010 Annual Strategy Conference in Philadelphia November 13-14, 2010, [Policy and Protest Panel](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

Insurers Gave the US Chamber of Commerce [\\$86 million](#) to Oppose Health Care Reform. The \$86.2 million paid for advertisements, polling and grass roots events to drum up opposition to a public option. Existing law doesn't require identifying funding sources! [Read more](#)

Insurance Executives are Highest Paid CEOs according to recently published [Wall Street Journal survey](#)



PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TODAY!! An [automatic monthly contribution](#) saves us time on fundraising and will give you satisfaction all year long.

The Campaign for the Minnesota Health Plan is a collaborative effort of the Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition and the Greater Minnesota Health Care Coalition and their coalition partners across Minnesota.