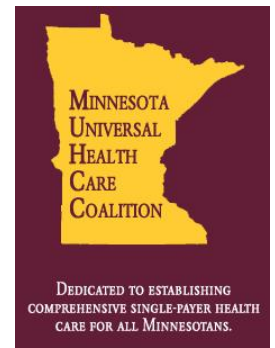




We Applaud Dayton's Picks JANUARY 2011



Dear Friends,

We at the Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition wish you and your loved ones a healthy and prosperous new year! We can only hope that 2011 brings a higher level of civic discourse and a lot less political animosity than we saw in 2010. We are eager to promote a sensible, sustainable, accountable and efficient health care system to a bipartisan legislature. With your help, they will listen. Too many Minnesotans are suffering physically and financially due to our broken health care system. There is no time like the present to stand up and declare: "Minnesota Can Do Health Care Better!"

Amy Lange
Executive Director

DAYTON APPOINTS PRO-SINGLE PAYER COMMISSIONERS

The last day of 2010 brought good news to the single-payer movement-Governor Dayton appointed [Edward Ehlinger](#) MD as Commissioner of Health. Dr. Ehlinger is Director of Boynton Health Center at the University of MN, faculty in the School of Public Health and President of Twin Cities Medical Society. Dr. Ehlinger [testified](#) in favor of the MN Health Plan at the House Health Care and Human Services Committee in 2009 and prepared testimony for the 2010 Senate Judiciary Hearing.

Also appointed, was [Ken Peterson](#) as Commissioner of Labor and Industry, a position he also held under Governor Perpich. Ken has a long career in public service including Chief of Staff for the Mayor of St. Paul and Deputy Attorney General. Most recently, until his appointment as Commissioner, Peterson was a lobbyist for the Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition.

TAKE-ACTION FOR SINGLE-PAYER

Join us in the Martin Luther King Day Parade January 17th, 10:30 a.m. in St. Paul

Parade begins at 10:30a.m at St. Paul Central High School 275 Lexington Ave. St. Paul. Parade route is approximately ½ mile ending at Concordia University. We will gather at 10:15. **Look for the Campaign for the MN Health Plan/ Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition banners.** Dress warmly. Feel free to bring your own signs. [Sign up](#) to march with us. [More information](#) about MLK day activities.

Congress can act soon to enable state-single-payer! Have you called in support?

Sens. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Scott Brown (R-Mass.) introduced the "Empowering States to Innovate Act," in late November which would essentially remove a barrier to state single-payer. [Read more](#)- and please call Senators Franken and Klobuchar and ask them to sign on. Our Senators need to hear from hundreds of you: 866-220-0044 (Capitol Switchboard).

Minnesota Health Plan Bill to Be Reintroduced- Let Your Legislators Know You are a Supporter!

Representative Jeff Hayden (HD61B) will be the Chief Author of the MN Health Plan in the House. Senator John Marty (SD54) will reintroduce the MN Health Plan in the Senate. We thank Senator Marty for his years of committed leadership on single-payer in the Senate and around the state, and we thank Rep. Hayden for taking up the mantle in the House. Find your legislator [here](#).

BILLIONS IN MINNESOTA TAXPAYER MONEY SPENT IN A SHROUD OF MYSTERY

The state pays \$3 billion annually to nine HMOs to administer Minnesota's public health plans such as Medicaid, and MinnesotaCare in a program called Prepaid Medical Assistance (PMAP). David Feinwachs, the former General Counsel of the Minnesota Hospital Association, reports that these HMOs are protected from scrutiny as to how they are spending the PMAP funds, our tax dollars. At a time of \$6.2 BILLION dollar budget shortfall, can we afford to have \$3 billion dollars of taxpayer money going to private insurers without a detailed accounting of how much is used for medical care and how much goes to administration?

[Watch a KSTP Report](#)

Watch Feinwach's Full [PMAP Presentation](#)

Demand a detailed audit and de-privitization of our public health programs. [Find and call your legislator!](#)

UPCOMING SINGLE-PAYER TRAININGS AND PRESENTATIONS

Lobbying 101- How to Lobby for the MN Health Plan

Learn from a master! Representative Frank Hornstein will present:

Lobbying 101- What Does It Mean To Lobby?

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

Saturday January 8th, 2011

10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

[Sign up to attend](#)

Making the Case For Single-Payer- What Is the Evidence?

This interactive presentation will dispel the myths around single-payer and make the economic case for single-payer as an efficient, equitable and accountable way to assure access to quality affordable health care.

Presented by Ann Sett gast MD, Co-Chair, Physicians for a National Health Program- MN

Thursday February 17, 2011

6:30-8:00 p.m.

[Sign up to attend](#)

Community Organizing: How you Learn to Stop Wondering and LOVE to Organize

Join our energetic organizers for a workshop on how to build the single-payer movement from the ground up. Take the first steps to becoming an effective advocate within your community.

Saturday March 5, 2011

10:000 a.m.-12:00 noon

[Sign up to attend](#)

All three trainings are free and open to the public and will be held at:

Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition

2469 University Ave W

St. Paul MN 55114

Lower Level Conference Room



PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TODAY!! Any amount helps! Consider an automatic monthly contribution. It saves us time on fundraising and will give you satisfaction all year long. (contributions are NOT tax deductible)

SICK AROUND THE WORLD DIRECTOR T. R. REID SPEAKING AT MUHCC EVENT

Wednesday February 23 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Northwestern Health Sciences University
2501 W 84th St., Bloomington MN 55431

T.R. Reid is a Washington Post Correspondent, and Commentator for National Public Radio. He directed [Sick Around the World](#) for PBS Frontline and is the author of numerous books, most recently [The Healing of America](#).



Suggested Donation \$10-\$25 (no one turned away for lack of funds).

[Pre-Registration Requested](#)

VERMONT SINGLE-PAYER DEADLINE CLOSE

Dr. William Hsiao, a Harvard economist and architect of Taiwan's single-payer system was hired to design three health care models for Vermont. The approaches- single-payer, a public option, and what Hsiao is terming a "viable and practical" single-payer will be presented to the legislature on January 19th. There will be a two week comment period, a two week revision period and a final presentation on February 17th. Vermont has a supportive legislature and governor. [Read More](#), View Hsiao's recent [presentation](#) in Vermont.

NEWSFLASH

➤ **Wendell Potter**, will be at University of MN Twin Cities-Coffman Union [January 19th 4:00](#) reading and signing his book, *Deadly Spin: An Insurance Company Insider Speaks Out On How Corporate PR Is Killing Health Care And Deceiving Americans*.

➤ President of Colorado's single-payer organization, Health Care For All Colorado, was elected to Colorado State Senate. Irene Aguilar, elected to Colorado SD 32 has committed to introducing a single-payer bill next session.

HELP PUT A FACE ON THE HEALTH CARE CRISIS IN MINNESOTA

Our current insurance based system costs too much, covers too little, restricts our choice of doctor and micro-manages our doctor's treatment decisions. Perhaps you are one of the people who lost your family doctor because of a network change, or are stuck in an unsatisfying job because you need the insurance coverage. Perhaps medical bills have forced you into foreclosure or bankruptcy. Perhaps the treatment recommended by your doctor was denied by your insurance or the cost of the treatment prevented you from following your doctor's recommendation. **Tell us your story** and help us put a human face on tragic consequences of our high cost private insurance system. [Download a form here](#). You can also type directly into a [contact form](#). Please include your first name, age and city.

DID YOU KNOW?

The number of uninsured rose to 50 million in 2009? Most of the uninsured are in low-income families with one or more full time workers. Having insurance makes a difference in whether people get necessary care and ultimately how healthy they are. Reduced access to care can lead to increased complications and hospitalizations, and premature death. Taxpayers and people with private insurance eventually end up paying the costs of care for the uninsured, through higher taxes and higher premiums. **Comment:** A single-payer system not only covers everyone, and improves health; it eliminates uncompensated care and cost shifting. Read more from the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#)

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.

