



# Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition

## *The Campaign for the Minnesota Health Plan*

### September 2010 E-Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Several provisions of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) went into effect last week: the prohibition of co-pays for preventive services, the extension of children's coverage on a parent's plan until age 26, and an end to life-time caps on insurance payments. Concurrently, faced with increased costs due to the above changes, insurance companies responded with a few of their own "provisions": cessation of policies that cover children, and cessation of policies for individuals and small businesses. Is this any way to run a health care system?! Provide advantage for some at the expense of coverage to others? "We the people" continue to lose ground economically as insurance and pharmaceutical costs soar, wages stagnate, and jobs remain scarce. We can do better. We can enact The Minnesota Health Plan and assure quality, affordable health care for all.

*Amy Lange*  
Executive Director

## **MOBILIZE FOR THE MINNESOTA HEALTH PLAN ADVOCACY AND ORGANIZING TRAINING**

*Why are we still talking about health care reform? Didn't we just pass a federal bill? What is the Minnesota Health Plan? Why is it better for me? How can we get this passed?*

The Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition/ Campaign for the MN Health Plan is holding a repeat of our popular organizing and advocacy training on the Minnesota Health Plan.

### **Saturday November 6th 2010**

Full day education and advocacy 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Morning education session only 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Saint Peter Senior Center  
600 S Fifth St. Suite 219  
Saint Peter MN 56082

### **Pre-Registration Required**

Suggested Donation: \$25 full day (\$10 students), \$15 morning only

**To Register**  
**Download Flyer**



## **AP POLL: AMERICANS WHO WANT HEALTH LAW TO GO FURTHER OUTNUMBER THOSE WHO WANT GOVERNMENT TO STAY OUT!**

A new AP poll, released September 25<sup>th</sup> finds that Americans who think the law should have done more outnumber those who think the government should stay out of health care by 2-to-1. Other findings: Four in 10 adults believe the new law did not go far enough to change the health care system, regardless of whether they support the law, oppose it

or remain neutral. About one in five say they oppose the law because they think the federal government should not be involved in health care at all. Only 25 percent in the poll said minimal tinkering would suffice for the health care system. [Read more](#)

## U.S. CENSUS- POVERTY UP, INSURANCE COVERAGE DOWN

- The nation's official poverty rate in 2009 was 14.3 percent, up from 13.2 percent in 2008. There were 43.6 million people in poverty in 2009, up from 39.8 million in 2008 — the third consecutive annual increase.
- The number of people without health insurance coverage rose from 46.3 million in 2008 to 50.7 million in 2009, while the percentage of uninsured increased from 15.4 percent to 16.7 percent over the same period.
- The percentage of people covered by private insurance (63.9 percent) is the lowest since 1987, as is the percentage of people covered by employment-based insurance (55.8 percent).
- The uninsured rates decreased as household income increased: from 26.6 percent for those in households with annual incomes less than \$25,000 to 9.1 percent in households with incomes of \$75,000 or more.

[Read more](#)

## INSURANCE COMPANIES WILL ALWAYS PUT PROFIT FIRST

- The federal reform bill requires that insurers selling to individuals and small businesses have a “medical loss ratio” of at least 80%. Translated, that means spend at least 80% of premiums collected on health care and no more than 20% of administration, executive salaries and profit. State insurance commissioners around the country are complaining! Their choice? Stop selling to individuals and small businesses- they claim they just can't keep their administration costs under 20%! In some states the mandated medical loss ratio is only 65%, up to 35% is spent on administration , executive salaries and profit. (How does a single-payer system compare? Consider this: Medicare spends 2% of its revenues on administration. That is a medical loss ratio of 98%. This should be our goal.)
- The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (the new federal law) prohibits insurance companies from refusing coverage or charging more for children with pre-existing conditions. This provision went into effect on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The response of insurance companies? Stop selling policies for children!

## WE NEED THE MINNESOTA HEALTH PLAN

Allowing insurance companies to “call the shots” leaves too many people out, costs way too much and covers too little. The Minnesota Health Plan cuts out the insurance company middleman and puts you and your doctor back in charge. The Minnesota Health Plan makes sure that your health care premiums are going to pay for care not for insurance company red tape and fine print. You'll be guaranteed affordable quality health care from the doctor of your choice and peace of mind knowing your coverage cannot be taken away.

## THE MINNESOTA HEALTH PLAN AT THE STATE FAIR!!



86 volunteers covered 120 shifts promoting the Minnesota Health Plan at the State Fair! While some passers-by were confused about the federal bill or just what we were proposing, many came straight up to the table and said “We need this now!” THANKS TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED and to the hundreds who stopped to talk to us, sign-up in support, and write postcards to our legislators!



**DONATE NOW**

**DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT WITH A CONTRIBUTION TODAY!!**

**Thanks to two generous donors we have a \$10,000 matching challenge. All contributions made before October 31<sup>st</sup> 2010 will be matched dollar for dollar.**

**Don't delay, click to donate.**

## **TIDBITS**

### **Minnesota Health Care Leaders and Legislators Visit Germany, Study Health Care System**

A Delegation of 16 individuals, including Minnesota Health Commissioner Sanne Magnan and Minnesota Health Plan Chief Author John Marty visited Germany earlier this month for a seminar on health care policy. Germany has provided high-quality universal health care of its citizens since 1883. Minnesota is noted as a Health Care leader in the United States. [Read more](#)

### **The Minnesota Medical Association Rejects Single-Payer Amendment**

The MN Medical Association, representing 11,000 physicians, residents and medical students held its annual meeting in Brainerd Sept 15-17. One hundred fifty delegates voted on resolutions to shape the MMA's policy agenda. A resolution in support of single-payer health care failed as did a resolution to oppose the recently enacted federal mandate to requiring individuals to have insurance. [Read more](#)

### **AARP Says Brand Name Drugs Up 8% in 2009**

A [new report](#) on retail prices of brand-name drugs most used by older Americans increased by an average of 8.3 percent during 2009, the largest increase in years, even as inflation was negative.

## **VOTE NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>!!!!**

The Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition does not endorse candidates or work on campaigns. We do educate candidates on the issue and work to inform voters. There are stark contrasts in this election. Please get informed and remember to vote.

[Find your polling place](#)

[Find out about voting absentee](#)

[Learn about voter registration](#)

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*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.*

