



Missourians for Single Payer Health Care

438 N. Skinker Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63130 ~ Ph: 314.862.5735 ~ www.mosp.us

President's message: Winds of Change

Our struggle for a single payer national health program has been over-long, weighty with seemingly insurmountable obstacles, including the corrupting influence of corporate money. Change is in the air in 2018.

Billionaire investor and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, Warren Buffett, is an outspoken advocate for single payer as the most fiscally conservative, and practical national health program. To circumvent the hurdles preventing the passage of progressive legislation through a corrupted Congress, Buffett joined with Jeff Bezos of Amazon and Jamie Dimon, Chairman and CEO of JP Morgan Chase to create a unique health care company "free from profit-making incentives and constraints." If they manage to fix health care for their own employees, which number over one million, it will become a model for other large companies to adopt similar, non-profit cooperatives to lower health care costs for their businesses, and help their employees thrive.

The insurance industry has fleeced the public for all it's worth without regard for the human costs of rationing according to ability to pay. They dodge responsibility for deaths by denial of payment. Insurers, essentially unrestricted and unregulated, have long outperformed Fortune 500 stocks, while dominating American health care. However, after Warren Buffett's announcement of the new not-for-profit alternative, stock prices for large insurers like Anthem, Humana, and UnitedHealth Group fell steeply (*MarketWatch*).

Single payer advocates have been lectured to "hold our noses, and choose second best," to our defiant, deaf ears. I feel the wind at our backs. Set the sails!

---Mimi Signor, RN

When the winds of change
blow, some people
build walls and
others build windmills.
-Chinese proverb



"I never did give anyone hell. I just told the truth and they thought it was hell."

---Harry S. Truman

"The wind of change is blowing through the continent. Whether we like it or not, this growth of national consciousness is a political fact."

---Harold MacMillan

Local and Regional Actions

St Louis DSA's Medicare for All Actions



Samati Niyomchai & Meghan Bragers speak at the DSA Watch Party

St Louis Democratic Socialists of America (St Louis DSA) hosted a watch party for Bernie Sanders' Medicare for All Town Hall (streamed live via Facebook from Washington DC) on January 23. Forty guests, including members of St Louis DSA, Missourians for Single Payer, and Physicians for a National Health Program, gathered at Missouri Jobs With Justice to enjoy beer and pizza and learn more about a better future with single payer. The town hall exceeded one million viewers! St Louis DSA was one of two dozen chapters across the country who held watch parties dedicated to the Town Hall and connecting local citizens to actions they can take in the fight for Medicare for All. We were excited to have a great turn out and an enthusiastic crowd on a chilly Tuesday night.

After the Town Hall, guests stuck around to learn about our current canvassing efforts, our postcard campaign to McCaskill, and how to get involved in the long fight for a future of health justice. Over the last six months, STL DSA Healthcare Committee has focused our efforts on a deep canvass in two wards of St Louis City-- one in the north, and one in the south. Though our door to door campaign has taken a pause due to winter weather, we have begun our planning stages for the spring, and continue to work with community

groups to gather postcards for a planned visit to Senator Claire McCaskill's office in April, asking her to stand in support of Medicare for All. The St Louis DSA Healthcare Committee typically meets twice a month, usually on Sundays. We plan to canvas at minimum twice a month in the spring. Our canvasses are open to ANYONE passionate about single payer. Each canvass event begins with a short training, and wraps up with a debriefing. Our next meeting will be held at Missouri Jobs with Justice on Sunday, February 11, at 1 PM. We are excited to get to know new people who joined us over the next few months, fight for healthcare that serves all people, and hopefully eat more pizza.

--Meghan Bragers, MSW

Meghan Bragers is a member of St Louis Democratic Socialists of America and a social worker in a maternity care program for Medicaid beneficiaries. For meeting information, contact Meghan at meghanbragers@gmail.com or visit <https://stlds.org/events/> for healthcare committees, as well as more DSA activities in the region.



Our Revolution - St. Joseph, MO



*Michael Jasper, Andrea Cole,
Derek Evans for
Our Revolution St. Joseph*

Do you know someone in St. Joseph or northwest Missouri that wants to see big, transformative, progressive change? Somebody that supports a people-first platform? Somebody that is excited that policies like Medicare for All, a \$15 minimum wage, and free public college tuition are now being discussed in the mainstream? Share our page, invite friends to like

us on Facebook, have them sign up at www.ourrevolution.com and encourage them to get involved! When we stand together there is nothing we cannot accomplish.

We spent much of the last few months focusing on the city council/mayoral primary elections. We held two forums and sent out a questionnaire asking candidates where they stand on the platform planks we worked to develop over the fall. The results were not definitive enough to make any endorsements, but we now know where candidates stand on a number of key issues. Surprisingly, candidates from across the ideological spectrum are in support of a number of the progressive planks in our platform! We hope to follow up with the general election candidates and are also working on progressive candidate recruitment for other city races and General Assembly seats.

---Derek Evans,

Co-Founder | Our Revolution - St. Joseph

Letters to the editor, posted Jan.ww 23, 2018, THE EXAMINER, Independence, Mo

NIMA would save on health care costs

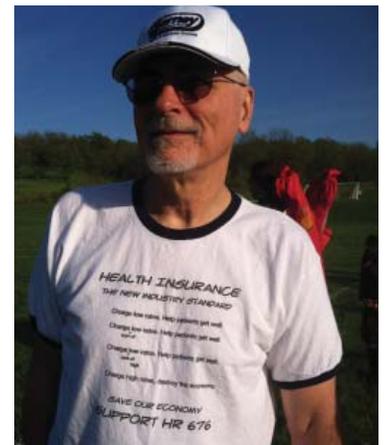
Only the United States, among all the wealthy developed nations in the world, considers a National Improved Medicare for All (NIMA) a political extreme. There have been several surveys done in many of the wealthy developed nations and all show that the majority of citizens of those nations consider government financed health care the norm and would not trade lower taxes in exchange for losing their health care financing.

Many, if not most, voting Americans have swallowed the propaganda that paying for someone else's health care is somehow unacceptable. The fact is that we all are already paying for the health care of others through higher taxes (Medicare, Medicaid, SCIP, etc.) and the insurance premiums that we have. The real irony is that we pay more for our health care than any of these other nations.

It's well past time that we adopt the concept of Medicare for All that President Truman tried to implement in 1946. We would reduce the cost of care AND provide health care financing for everyone (100 percent of the nation's citizenry). The average family of four would actually save about \$5,000 annually when calculating the difference between the insurance premiums that would go away with the additional taxes required to fund NIMA.

NIMA is the fiscally conservative and the socially progressive solution to our nation's health care financing challenges.

---Terry Flowers



Terry Flowers

State Efforts

The Show Me State shows them

HB 1833, The Missouri Universal Health Assurance Act, “establishes the Missouri Universal Health Assurance Program to provide a publicly financed, statewide insurance program for all residents of the state.” Bill sponsor, Rep. Joe Adams pre-filed this bill on Jan 2, followed by the first and second readings. Rep. Adams represents citizens from parts of University City, Pagedale, Vinita Park, Wellston, Vinita Terrace and Hanley Hills (District 86).

Our state single payer bill, first introduced in 1990, serves as a model for the country. In this respect, the “Show Me” state has shown all the other states. Your grass roots participation can make single payer a state priority.

Read and understand HB 1833. Establish a cooperative relationship with your representative and ask her or him to support the bill as a cosponsor. Travel to Jefferson City to testify at a bill hearing. Giving testimony in person is imperative. Constituents make a big impact through telling of their personal stories. Although each person has only three minutes at the microphone, if your testimony is compelling and personal, the committee members may ask you questions, enabling further discussion. The experience is well worth the drive to the Capital, and may make all the difference.

---Mimi Signor, RN



Health Care for All Oregon

HOPE AMENDMENT for Universal Access Passes!

Representative Mitch Greenlick’s “Hope Amendment,” HJR 203, passed February 7 in the House Committee on Health Care in an historic vote to amend the Oregon constitution to declare healthcare a fundamental right. HCAO supporters gave impassioned testimony.

Representative Nosse gave special well-deserved recognition to Health Care for All Oregon. This vote on HOPE is a step forward in achieving universal access to care. The path to victory is paved by our members and donors. The fight continues as we strive to get a vote of the entire Oregon legislature.

We will be advocating for: Hope Amendment, Prescription Drug Transparency Act (HB 4005), Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) reform bill (HB 4018).

---Tom Sincic, HCAO President



Representative Joe Adams



PDA works for Single Payer on National and State Levels

Nationally, Progressive Democrats of America (PDA) is committed to Improved Medicare for All. We also work within various states for single payer systems, California especially, but also in Florida, Colorado, and Maryland. See below for two updates.

The Healthy Maryland Act

PDA Maryland is watching the inspiring efforts in other states, and working closely with our friends National Nurses United (NNU), Our Revolution, and others in Maryland to gain cosponsors and support for our own single payer healthcare legislation. Lead sponsor Maryland Senator Paul Pinsky explains, “The United States remains the only industrialized nation that does not have universal health care. This legislation creates the Healthy Maryland program, which will provide health care services to all residents of Maryland under a single payer system.”



The Healthy California Act

In California, PDA—led by Dr. Bill Honigman and Judy Hess, PDA CA State Co-coordinators—has been mobilizing in support of the *Healthy California Act* (SB 562). The California State Senate passed the bill back in June of 2017, but California Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon put it on hold—blocking a vote. Studies have shown (and systems around the world have proven) that Single Payer would save over \$30 billion in tax dollars per year and save more than 3,000 lives per year in California.

We’re working with our Campaign for a Healthy California allies—including the California Nurses Association (CNA)—demanding a floor vote on Single Payer. The California Democratic Party has had Single Payer Healthcare in its platform for over a decade. PDA will mobilize at this year’s convention to drive home that point to Speaker Rendon and all others who are blocking needed progress.



Single payer rally, Maryland





National Actions on S. 1804 and HR 676

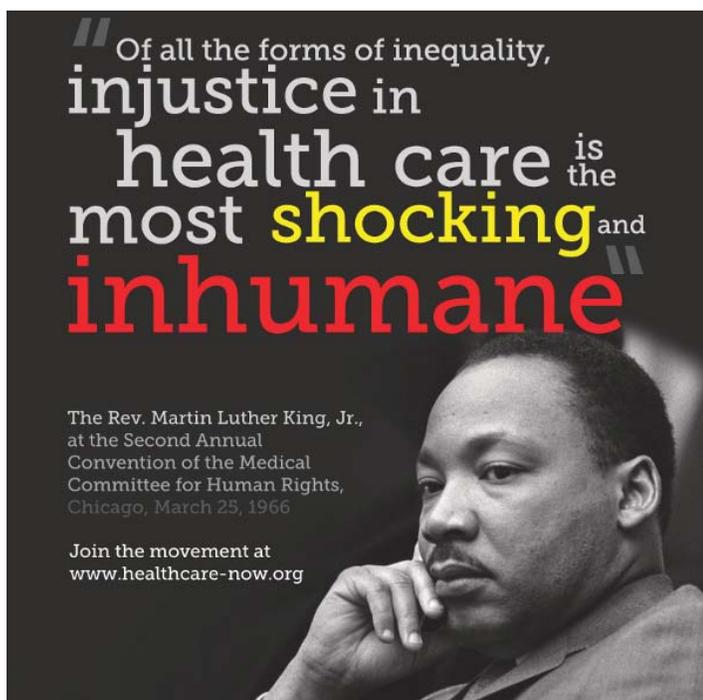
Healthcare-NOW! Mobilizes for S. 1804

40,000+ signatures for Bernie Sanders's Medicare-for-All bill - collected in-person and online - will be delivered February 15th by local delegations to Senate district offices across the country in red and blue America. These signatures were the joint effort of Healthcare-NOW, Daily Kos, PDA, and many other national and state organizations. Thank you Healthcare-NOW Street Team for making the local petition drops possible!

State and local leaders are hard at work right now scheduling office visits, printing out thousands of signatures, mobilizing their groups and local coalitions, and everything else required to make these events successful. Here at the national level, we're sorting through hundreds of pages of petitions and introducing thousands of new people to the single payer movement.

Senators representing the full political spectrum - from comfortably red states (Alabama, Georgia, and Texas), purple states (Florida, Colorado, West Virginia) and holdouts from blue states (California, New Jersey, and more) - will be asked to do the right thing and cosponsor S. 1804. We're giving them a chance to do so before our primaries work begins later in February, when we really amp up the pressure. 2018 is just getting started - help us kick it off right!

---Ben and Stephanie, Healthcare-NOW! National Staff



Upcoming Events

MoSP meets at the Ethical Society of St. Louis on the third Thursday of the month. Check the website for current program announcements.

www.mosp.us



Kay Tillom, second from left, with Kentuckians for Single Payer, visits Senator Mitch McConnell's office

Talking Points -- HR 676, Improved Medicare for All

HR 676 would institute a single payer health care system by expanding a greatly improved Medicare to everyone residing in the U. S. Patients will choose their own physicians and hospitals.

HR 676 would cover every person for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs, hospital, surgical, outpatient services, primary and preventive care, emergency services, dental (including oral surgery, periodontics, endodontics), mental health, home health, physical therapy, rehabilitation (including for substance abuse), vision care and correction, hearing services including hearing aids, chiropractic, durable medical equipment, palliative care, podiatric care, and long term care.

HR 676 ends deductibles and co-payments. HR 676 would save hundreds of billions annually by eliminating the high overhead and profits of the private health insurance industry.

HR 676 has been endorsed by 636 union organizations including 157 Central Labor Councils/Area Labor Federations and 44 state AFL-CIO's (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, MT, NE, NJ, NY, NV, MA, RI, NH, ID).

---Kay Tillom, Coordinator, All Unions Committee for Single Payer Health Care--HR 676

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Categories

_____ Individual, \$20 I will contribute \$_____ towards _____

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(specific programming and expenses)

_____ Organization, \$50

_____ Other \$_____ _____ I'm unable to pay dues at this time, but I will support and promote MoSP

among relatives, friends, colleagues, acquaintances, however I can. Please continue to send me the newsletter. Please call on me for volunteer help.