

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FOR **GUARANTEED HEALTH CARE**

**47 million Americans uninsured. Premiums out of control. HMO's denying coverage. Enough is enough. America needs
GUARANTEED HEALTH CARE**

THE U.S. NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT (HR 676)

BRIEF SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION:

The United States National Health Insurance Act (USNHI) establishes a unique American national universal health insurance program. It creates a publicly financed, privately delivered system of health care modeled on the Medicare program, by expanding and improving it to cover all U.S. residents and residents of U.S. territories. The goal is to ensure that **all** Americans have access, guaranteed by law, to the highest quality and most cost-effective health services regardless of their employment, income or health status. (*The Top 10 Reasons to support H.R. 676 are included on the reverse side of this flyer.*)

H.R. 676 WOULD REDUCE OVERALL HEALTH CARE COSTS - FAMILIES PAY ALMOST 80% LESS:

In 2007 the average annual premium for families covered under an employee health plan is roughly \$11,000 according to the National Coalition on Health Care. A study by Dr. Dean Baker of the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) concluded that under H.R. 676, a family of three making \$40,000 per year would spend approximately \$1,900 per year for health coverage – a savings of 80%.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE: The most effective way to contact your representative is to call his or her Washington, DC, office. Simply call the Capitol switchboard at **202-224-3121**. Tell the operator your zip code and ask for your representative's name (if you don't know it already) before being connected to the office.

CALL TODAY! TELL YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS TO CO-SPONSOR

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU CALL:

Hi, my name is _____ and I am a constituent of Representative _____. I am calling to ask him/her to be a co-sponsor of H.R. 676, the U.S. National Health Insurance Act that was introduced by Rep. John Conyers earlier this year. This bill would ensure that ALL Americans have guaranteed access to high quality, cost-effective health services. As of November 1, there were 83 Democrats co-sponsoring this bill already – more than 1/3 of the entire Democratic Caucus. I would like to know if Representative _____ will be supporting this critical health care reform legislation as well.

[If the staff person says that the representative does NOT plan to co-sponsor the legislation:] *Could I ask why s/he is not willing to co-sponsor this bill?*

Can I get a written response to my question? Thanks. My address is _____.

GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK: If the congressional staff person provided useful information, such as telling you that the representative planned to co-sponsor H.R. 676 or telling you why s/he would not co-sponsor, please send this information to **guaranteedhealthcare@gmail.com**.

Too shy to call? Visit – **www.guaranteedhealthcare.org** – to send an e-mail to your representative. (Follow "Take Action"/"Write Your Representatives;" Look for H.R. 676)

REASONS TO SUPPORT H.R. 676, THE U.S. NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT

1 **Everybody In, Nobody Out.** Universal means access to health care for everyone, period.

2 **Choice.** Most private insurance restricts your choice of doctors, other caregivers or hospitals. Under the U.S. National Health Insurance Act, patients have a choice, and the provider is assured a fair payment.

3 **Portability.** If you are unemployed, or lose or change jobs, your health coverage stays with you.

4 **Uniform Benefits.** No Cadillac plans for the wealthy and Pinto plans for everyone else, with high deductibles, limited services, caps on payments for care, and no protection in the event of a catastrophe. One level of comprehensive care for everyone, regardless of the size of your wallet.

5 **Prevention.** By removing financial roadblocks, a universal health system encourages preventive care that lowers an individual's ultimate cost and pain and suffering when problems are neglected and societal cost in the over-utilization of emergency rooms or the spread of communicable diseases.

6 **No Interference with Care.** Caregivers and patients regain their autonomy to decide what's best for a patient's health, not what's dictated by a private insurer's billing department. No denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions or cancellation of policies for "unreported" minor health problems.

7 **Reducing Waste.** One third of every private health insurance dollar goes for paperwork and overhead, compared to about 3% under Medicare, the federal government's universal system for senior citizen healthcare.

8 **Cost Savings.** A guaranteed health care system can produce the cost savings needed to cover everyone, largely by using existing resources without the waste. Taiwan, shifting from a U.S. private health care model, adopted a similar system in 1995, boosting health coverage from 57% to 97% with little increase in overall spending.

9 **Common Sense Budgeting.** The public system sets fair reimbursements applied equally to all providers, private and public, while assuring that appropriate health care is delivered. It uses its clout to negotiate volume discounts for prescription drugs and medical equipment.

10 **Public Oversight.** The public sets the policies and administers the system, not CEOs making decisions based on their company's stock performance needs.

One more reason...Uninsured Americans Are Dying

The National Institute of Medicine found that lack of health insurance is fatal, causing nearly 18,000 unnecessary deaths every year in the United States. Although America leads the world in health care spending, it is the *only* wealthy, industrialized nation that does not ensure that all citizens have coverage. ("Insuring America's Health: Principles and Recommendations," Institute of Medicine, January 2004. www.iom.edu/?id=19175)