

Health Care *for* All-Washington



Formerly Health Care 2000

Annual Meeting — Sat., Oct. 5, 2002

Health Care for All-Washington will hold their annual meeting to elect a new board and officers on Sat., Oct. 5th, at 1:00 p.m. at Horizon House, located at 900 University St. (cross street is Boren) in Seattle.

The Health Care for All-Washington Board will meet on Sat., Sept. 14th, at 1:00 p.m. at Horizon House.

All are welcome!

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Weekend Canvassing Coming Up

Education/Outreach Committee
Welcomes Your Help

YOU Can Make a Difference -
Volunteers Needed

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Pledge your Support

CONTACT INFO

Health Care for All-Washington
P.O. Box 30506
Seattle, WA 98103

Seattle: 206-323-3393

Toll-free: 1-877-903-9723

Email: info@healthcare2k.org

Visit our website:
www.healthcare2k.org

Bleeding To Death

— by *Stuart Jeanne Bramhall, MD*

Washington's public health care system is hemorrhaging badly, both in loss of providers and loss of funding. For the last several years extremely low reimbursement rates have led droves of Washington physicians to leave Medicare; in fact, many have moved their practices to other states. Now the Washington Medicaid program, designed to cover the poorest of the poor, is under assault from Washington State Governor Gary Locke.

As of July 1st, Governor Locke cancelled Medicaid benefits for legal aliens with less than five years residence, as well as eliminating the state match for SSI benefits. This caused thousands of dual SSDI (social security disability) / SSI recipients to lose the Medicaid coverage they relied on to obtain prescriptions. Thousands more Washington residents lost Medicaid benefits they received through General Assistance when Locke told the Community Service Offices they had to "voluntarily" cut their caseload by 60%. Many residents who, in theory, retain their Medicaid benefits can no longer obtain prescription drugs, as drastic reimbursement cuts cause Washington pharmacies to leave the program in droves.

Effect of Medicaid Waiver

The good news is that in January the federal government rejected Governor Locke's application for a waiver of federal Medicaid laws. What Governor Locke proposed was to put Washington's poorest residents (with incomes of \$8,000 a year or less) on a waiting list and charge them premiums (up to \$30 a month) before they could qualify for Medicaid. The waiver application also sought to allow the Governor discretion in canceling dental, vision, and hearing benefits for some Medicaid patients (without public or legislative input).

The bad news is that Governor Locke has drafted a new waiver application with only minor modifications. Under the new waiver proposal, the Governor again seeks discretionary power to stop accepting new applicants into Medicaid, a decision which would not be reviewed by the legislature or made public in advance. In addition, non-emergent dental care, and routine vision and hearing care would be eliminated for many Medicaid recipients, and Medicaid patients would pay a \$5 co-payment on brand name and "non-preferred" prescription drugs.

“The reason we don’t get the health care we’re paying for is that powerful corporations cause 25-30 cents of every health care dollar to be diverted to profit, CEO salaries and administrative waste.”

We ALL Suffer

Governor Locke’s supposed solution to the current health care crisis is incredibly short sighted. History teaches that quality health care for the poor (especially immigrant groups who carry novel infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis) is essential to control epidemics of infectious disease, mental health and substance abuse problems and violence. When we deny this care, we damage quality of life for all of us.

Instead of playing a leadership role in reforming health care financing and ending price gouging by insurance and drug companies (like governors in other states — Maine, Vermont, Oregon, California, New Mexico), Locke seems prepared to dismantle the last remnants of our public health care delivery system.

Not in Our State

A recent study by Drs. David Himmelstein and Steffie Woolhandler (July Health Affairs) reveals that the government currently funds 60% of U.S. healthcare costs, spending an average of \$3,245 per capita. This is more than taxpayers in other industrialized countries pay for health care systems that cover everyone. As Dr. Woolhandler so aptly states, “We pay for national health insurance but don’t get it.” The reason we don’t get the health care we’re paying for is that powerful corporations cause 25-30 cents of every health care dollar to be diverted to profit, CEO salaries and administrative waste.

Are we, the taxpayers, going to sit idly by while powerful insurance and pharmaceutical corporations siphon away millions of government health care dollars? Are we going to allow Gary Locke to attack program after program that our senior and disabled citizens rely on for their very survival? Not in this state!

You Can Make A Difference *Let Them Know How You Feel*

It only takes one person willing to make a difference... and one more... and another.

Obviously Gary Locke needs a wake-up call (email) reminding him that he faces re-election this fall. A copy of waiver proposal can be viewed at: <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov/medwaiver>.

Express your comments and concerns to:

Medical Assistance Administration
ATTN: Medicaid Waiver/Rich Pankuk
P.O. Box 45500
Olympia WA 98504

— and —

Governor Gary Locke
Legislative Bldg.
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia WA 98504

(Phone) 360-902-4111

Email: Governor.Locke@governor.wa.gov



HealthCare2000 Name Change

On July 20, 2002 the HealthCare2000 Board voted to change our name to **Health Care for All-Washington**. We are now in conformity with the single-payer organizations Health Care for All-Oregon and Health Care for All-California.

We also elected **Brian King** to the Health Care for All-Washington Board. Brian is a respiratory therapist who organized a bargaining unit for respiratory therapists at Children's Hospital and is a shop steward for United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1001. Brian also works with the Seattle Green Party's Health Care Working Group.

The Board also voted to join *Health Care is a Right*, a broad-based coalition which is gearing up to a working conference next March to explore launching a City of Seattle ballot initiative advocating universal health care. For organizations wishing a copy of the *Health Care is a Right* principles of unity, contact **Brian King** at pnbking@earthlink.net.

Health Care is a Right also seeks to place resolutions before a number of city and county councils around Washington State. A copy of a draft resolution can be obtained from the Health Care for All-Washington website: www.healthcare2k.org, or you can email us at info@healthcare2k.org, or call 1-877-903-9723 to request a copy.

Government By The People, For The People . . .

— by *Mary Margaret Pruitt, Chair Legislative Committee*

Committee Members: Forbes Bottomly, Janice Burnell, Susan Eidenschink, Robert Fithian, Mary Hulse, Sarah Weinberg, Lori Whittaker, Paul and Mary Margaret Pruitt - Co-Chairs

Health Care For All-Washington Needs You!

Election season has now officially begun and challenges our organization to respond appropriately. We need members in all 49 legislative districts to identify and assist candidates who support universal health care for all Washington residents. **If you want resource material to inform your candidates, call (206) 382-3785, or 1-877-903-9723, or email info@healthcare2k.org.**

The Legislative Committee will be trying to get sponsors in both the Senate and the House to sponsor our bill to set up a Commission. The Commission would be directed to document the unsatisfactory delivery of health care in our state and recommend a plan to provide all residents high quality, accessible, affordable care. After the primary and November elections are over, talk or write to your elected legislators. The most important message you can give them is that you are their constituent and you strongly favor health care for all.

Help Line

— by *Carolyn Apel, Chair Help Line Committee*

Help Line volunteers distributed Health Care for All-Washington flyers and newsletters at the Hiroshima Day commemoration at Greenlake.

The Help Line continues to receive calls from people all over the state who are unable to access affordable medical care, particularly prescription drugs. We offer a service for getting affordable medications mailed from Canadian pharmacies to American homes ANYWHERE IN THE US. We also have a database of Canadian doctors and dentists who will see Americans for a fraction of the cost in the U.S. If you need help, please email me at carolyn_apel@hotmail.com or call our office at 206-323-3393, or toll free: 1-877-903-9723.

Health Care For All In Oregon - *Make It Happen!*

A successful single-payer initiative sponsored by **Health Care for All-Oregon** has qualified for the November 2002 ballot with over 98,000 signatures (only 67,000 were needed). They are asking for our help. They can expect major opposition and scores of misleading TV commercials from both the insurance and the drug lobby.

How You Can Help

There will be weekend canvasses in various Portland neighborhoods from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday through election day. If you are interested in helping, please contact HCA-O Campaign Manager **Dan Isaacson** at **541-870-1354** or **danisaacson@hotmail.com**. Washington state volunteers who helped out with the extremely well-organized HCA-O signature campaign found the time they invested extremely rewarding.

Please mail your donation to: Health Care for All-Oregon
3896 Beverly NE, Building J
Suite 6, Salem, OR 97305

YOU Can Help !

A few minutes a week

— by *Ruth Knagenhjelm, Education/Outreach*

The education/outreach committee **NEEDS YOU** to copy and distribute the flyers enclosed with each newsletter. We need to spread the word and educate the public about our Health Care for All-Washington. Our goal is 5,000 - 10,000 active supporters to collect signatures for an initiative next year.

The post-it flyer with telephone number stubs is for public bulletin boards, churches, restrooms, etc. The flyer on the opposite side is for people you make face-to-face contact with: neighbors, co-workers, street fairs, etc.

Volunteers Needed!

Health Care Survey

Health Care is a Right has been doing some grassroots outreach at farmers markets, street fairs, discount stores, etc., to build their volunteer base for the conference and a possible signature campaign next summer. We have been asking people to complete brief surveys regarding the health issue and the response has been fantastic.

We need volunteers are needed to help circulate the surveys. If you helped with the I-725 or I-245 signature campaign, this, too, is a great method of public outreach and education. Please contact **Brian King** at **pnbking@earthlink.net** to find out the exact dates and locations where this project is happening.



Falling through the Health Care cracks?

Maybe you're next!

Let's put

**Everybody in
Nobody out**

**Support a WA-state Self-insured Proposal
Less red tape = no increase in taxes
mandating**

Health Care Security

**A Right and Responsibility
For All**

For more info and/or to volunteer or contribute, contact:

Healthcare for all-WA(Hc2k) at www.healthcareforallwa.org or (206)323-3393 or 1-877-903-9723.

Tear off stub below.

1-877-903-9723
www.healthcareforallwa.org

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[206] 323-3393 or 1-877-903-9723.

Please copy and distribute!

To volunteer or contribute: fill in below

Name: _____ Legislative district: _____

Adr: _____

City _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

Contribution: \$ _____ Volunteer: Flyers _____ Signatures _____ Phonecalls _____ Other _____

Visa _____ Mastercard _____ Other _____ Signature _____

Card#: _____ Expiration date: _____

Please mail checks and/or stub to:

Health Care for all-WA (Hc2k), PO Box 30506, Seattle Wa 98103

HealthCare *for* All-Washington

P.O. Box 30506
Seattle, WA 8103
dba HealthCare 2000 and Washington Single-Payer Action Network

Non-Profit
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6109
Seattle, WA

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please look over this list and if you can help in any of these areas, please indicate your areas of interest on the pledge sheet on page 2. Thanks!

SIGNATURE DRIVE:

- Area Chairperson
- Assistants (we need lots!)
- District Chairperson

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

- Sponsor a mailing
- Sponsor a flyer printing
- Donate postage
- Donate office workers from your business
- Underwrite a fundraising event / educational opportunity

WEB:

- Webmaster to maintain the HC2000 website

EDUCATION:

- Education Flyer
- Graphic Design
- Newsletter Layout
- Newsletter or TV experience or connections
- Speakers
- Writing articles for our newsletter
- Any other creative ideas?

FUNDRAISING:

- Area Fundraiser Chairs
- Fundraising Assistants
- Fundraising Chairperson
- Fundraising Event Organizers

OFFICE:

- Computer equipment
- Copy machine or other equipment
- Data entry
- Donate office space
- Office Assistants

Health Care for All-Washington is a statewide, all-volunteer coalition working to replace the current inadequate health care system with a universal, "single-payer" health care system. We feel that if countries possessing only a fraction of our wealth can have a successful universal health care system, so can we. Among our ranks you will find patients, health care professionals, youths, seniors, insured, and uninsured.

