

Report Back on Workshops at 2009 National Strategy Conference

Health Care NOT Warfare led by Progressive Democrats of America

Discussion was led on the inside / outside strategy of the progressive democrats to support Medicare for All.

Here are the next steps: We ask you to take a few moments and fill out the official join form (if you are not yet a member) and pick what issues are important to you so we can get involved in our Issue Organizing Teams here

<https://www.thedatabank.com/dpg/309/personal2.asp?formid=signup>

Check out our Issue Organizing team pages for some great resource material here <http://pdamerica.org/iot/>

If you are ready to move forward with a chapter or become a point person or see if there is a chapter in your area then please visit here <http://pdamerica.org/orgs/findstate.php>

Join our PDA Facebook fan page!

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Progressive-Democrats-of-America/164462034235?ref=ts>

Million Letters Campaign

Bob Haiducek led a discussion on his campaign. You can find out more at www.medicareforall.org

How Publicly Funded Elections help Single-Payer Advocacy

led by Frank Kirkwood

The health care “debate” in Congress has not been about the merits of the various reforms, it has been about power. We single-payer advocates may have had the most humane, fiscally responsible and popular plan, but it was “off the table” in a Congress dominated by the health care industries and their power to grant or withhold campaign money.

This workshop focused on the opportunity we have, in this session of Congress, to give members of Congress an alternative source of campaign money through passage of the Fair Elections Now Act (H.R. 1826, S, 752). These bills provide public funding for congressional candidates through a blend of small private donations (under \$100) and matching public campaign funds. These bills currently have over 120 co-sponsors. The Fair Elections Now Act is supported by the large campaign reform groups as well as by advocates for a broad range of issues.

The recommendation coming out of the workshop is that Healthcare-Now’s Board review the Fair Elections Now Act and consider endorsing these bills as part of our strategy to pass single-payer. Passage of the Fair Elections Now Act will create a new environment in Congress and, with it, the opportunity to us to argue for single-payer on its merits. Members of Congress will not be able to ignore us. If they do, they may face a publicly funded single-payer challenger in the next election. But, just as importantly, Fair Elections will give incumbents an alternative source of campaign money and with it, the ability to break their dependency on lobbyists’ cash.

Workshop attendees also reviewed a list of co-sponsors of H.R. 676 who are not yet co-sponsors of H.R. 1826. That list is reproduced below.

Rep Baca, Joe [CA-43]	Rep Meeks, Gregory W. [NY-6]
Rep Becerra, Xavier [CA-31] - 3/17/2009	Rep Moore, Gwen [WI-4]
Rep Berman, Howard L. [CA-28]	Rep Murtha, John P. [PA-12]
Rep Bishop, Sanford D., Jr. [GA-2]	Rep Pastor, Ed [AZ-4]
Rep Brady, Robert A. [PA-1]	Rep Payne, Donald M. [NJ-10]
Rep Brown, Corrine [FL-3]	Rep Rahall, Nick J., II [WV-3]
Rep Christensen, Donna M. [VI]	Rep Roybal-Allard, Lucille [CA-34]
Rep Chu, Judy [CA-32]	Rep Rush, Bobby L. [IL-1]
Rep Clarke, Yvette D. [NY-11]	Rep Ryan, Tim [OH-17]
Rep Cleaver, Emanuel [MO-5]	Rep Tierney, John F. [MA-6]
Rep Dicks, Norman D. [WA-6]	Rep Towns, Edolphus [NY-10]
Rep Engel, Eliot L. [NY-17]	Rep Velazquez, Nydia M. [NY-12]
Rep Fudge, Marcia L. [OH-11]	Rep Waters, Maxine [CA-35]
Rep Green, Al [TX-9]	Rep Watson, Diane E. [CA-33]
Rep Kennedy, Patrick J. [RI-1]	Rep Weiner, Anthony D. [NY-9]
Rep Kilpatrick, Carolyn C. [MI-13]	Rep Wexler, Robert [FL-19]

List current as of November 21, 2009

For more information visit www.CitizenFundedElections.org.

Coalition Building

Mikuak Rai, founder of the Coalition for Uninsured and Underinsured for Single Payer and Ali Thebert, Chapter Building Coordinator with PNHP led a great discussion on coalition building.

Notes with recommendations from the workshop are found in this folder.

Labor and Single Payer

Jerry Tucker led a great workshop on building labor support for single-payer. Find out more at www.laborforsinglepayer.org

Win-Win Campaign

Healthcare-NOW! runs a campaign to promote the positive economic impact on local government entities that the implementation of single-payer brings.

<http://www.healthcare-now.org/campaigns/win-win/>

Find a slide show on the presentation in this folder.

Contact Tom Knoche, Healthcare-NOW! to be involved at [knocheberg\[at\]aol.com](mailto:knocheberg@aol.com)

Civil Disobedience Campaign

Discussion led by Margaret Flowers, Katie Robbins, and Kevin Zeese

Activists recommended building actions for December 10th, Human Rights Day, to promote the vote on Senator Sanders single-payer bill, S 703 and the support for states to move to single-payer. To get involved with the current civil disobedience campaign or to organize an action without civil disobedience, visit

www.mobilizeforhealthcare.org.

Social Media and Internet Organizing

Seven people attended the workshop on organizing on the web. We discussed five tools every group should use:

1. Website: Wordpress.com, Wordpress.org, Squarespace.com (\$14/month)
2. Membership Database: Creator.Zoho.com or OpenOffice.org
3. Email List: Groundspring.org (\$50 setup, \$30 monthly), Groups.Google.com
4. Online Petitions: Care2.org and Change.org
5. Social Networking: Facebook.com and Twitter.com

The overall tips for Internet organizing are: keep it brief, make signing up simple, update daily, engage with readers/not right-wing instigators, and include simple actions.

Everyone agreed that we, Healthcare-NOW!, should send out an email every week with links to news stories about single-payer to our activists. Not just a list of links, but an analysis and description of what happened that week.

It was also suggested that Healthcare-NOW! use live blogging and chat rooms in addition to the monthly activist conference call.

The group suggested that we use conference calls for training, special talks with single-payer leaders, and regional discussions.

Anyone with questions about websites, social networking, email lists, etc, should contact Jeff Muckensturm at jeff@healthcare-now.org or 267-515-2400.

Health Care is a Human Right

Ethel Long Scott and the team from the Women's Economic Agenda Project led a great discussion with recommendations from the Health care is a Human Right framing. Recommendations and input found here: <http://weap.org/executive-director-s-corner.htm>