

What Can You Do?

1. Become Informed! Attend rallies, house parties, campaign events. Ask candidates to explain their plans for health care reform.

2. Add your voice. Tell candidates:

- Health care is a right.
- Health care dollars should go for actual care, not for insurance company profits.
- All Americans should be covered by a single payer system that eliminates the costs of lobbying, wasteful paperwork, advertising, profits, and denial of claims.
- Government should be able to negotiate bulk drug prices.

3. Urge your legislators to support HR 676, a universal single payer bill.

The toll-free congressional switchboard (866) 338-1015 will connect you to your legislators.

4. Volunteer to help candidates of your choice.

5. Join organizations. More information at:

League of Women Voters of Amherst, MA Health Care Committee

lwwahealthcare@yahoo.com

Mass-Care (617) 723-7001
www.masscare.org

Healthcare-NOW (800) 453-1305
www.healthcare-now.org

2/2008 League of Women Voters
of Amherst, MA, Health Care Committee.

Legislation Pending

United States:

- **HR 676: United States Health Insurance Act**
 - Single payer national health care plan
 - Universal - covers everyone
 - Comprehensive, quality care
 - Affordable - less than we pay now
 - Not tied to employment
 - Choice of physicians and facilities
 - Eliminates complex, costly paperwork
- **S 1218: Medicare for All Act**
 - Universal coverage through Medicare or the Federal Employee Health Program
 - Comprehensive, quality care
 - Provides preventive care
- **HR 4: Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act**
 - Would negotiate lower drug prices for Medicare beneficiaries
- **S 95: Kids First Act**
 - Would cover the 11 million uninsured children in the U.S.

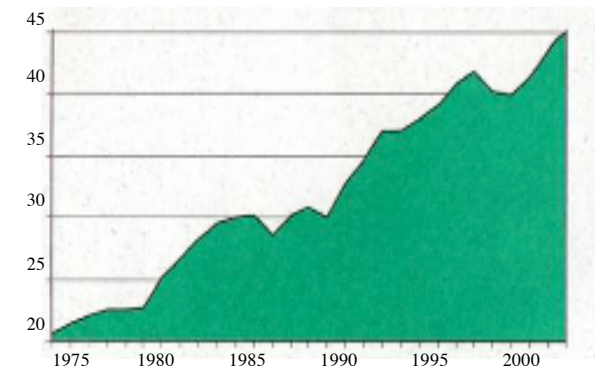
Massachusetts:

- **S 703/H 1137: MA Health Care Trust**
 - A single payer, comprehensive, quality plan for all state residents
- **S 411: MA Prescription Drug Fair Pricing Program**
 - Would reduce cost of Rx drugs in MA

The Health Care Crisis In America

Problems & Solutions

Number of Uninsured Americans (millions)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

What is the Crisis in U.S. Health Care?

- 47 Million Americans are without health insurance; millions more have inadequate coverage.
- Health insurance premiums have soared 87% in the last 5 years, stressing the budgets of individuals, cities, towns, states, and the nation.
- Businesses are forced to either lay off workers or cut health care benefits.
- Insurance companies deny coverage to people with pre-existing conditions.
- Insurance companies make excessive profits by denying client claims.
- Excessive administrative costs and exorbitant profits consume one third of your health care dollar.
- One child in nine in the U.S. is uninsured. This fact contributes to our ranking 20th out of 21 wealthy countries in child welfare. (UNICEF 2007)
- Medical costs lead to almost half of all bankruptcies; three quarters of those people had health insurance at the start of their illness.
- Disabled soldiers who return with lifelong medical needs are grossly neglected.

How to Reform The Health Care System

Adopt a publicly financed, not-for-profit, single payer system that ensures high quality comprehensive health care for everyone. It would:

- Institute simplified, single-form billing to reduce administrative costs.
- Eliminate the wasteful expense of advertising, lobbying, and excessive profits in the health care system. Non-medical costs would fall from the current 30-50% to less than 5% (as in Medicare).
- Use the \$300 billion per year saved (by above) to provide health care for the 47 million who are now uninsured.
- Computerize patient records for safer medical care.
- Negotiate fair pricing of drugs through bulk discounts.
- Guarantee preventive care.
- Provide public health planning to protect and improve community health through research, education and emergency response preparedness.

Is it OK for illness to bankrupt families?

Is it OK for families to go hungry in order to pay for health care?

Is it OK to lose your health care coverage when you lose your job?

Is it OK for disabled soldiers to have no health insurance?

Is it OK for insurance companies to deny proven medical treatment to cancer patients?

Is it OK for more babies to die in the first year of life in the U.S. than in other developed countries?

Why is it that the U. S. ranks 37th in overall health care outcomes, yet spends twice as much per capita as higher ranked countries? (WHO 2007)