



On Common Ground

Out-of-control health care costs are bankrupting families and businesses all across America. Which is why the eyes of the nation are on Illinois.

We have a concensus for action. We are nearing a solution.

Health care is not a partisan issue. We're all in this together. In Illinois, we have found common ground to deal with a problem that adversely impacts living standards, job creation, wage growth and economic development.

THE HEALTH CARE JUSTICE ACT directs the General Assembly to come up with a statewide universal health care plan. To do that, our legislators need YOUR help. They are counting on YOU to guide them.

That's the purpose of town-hall style meetings this year in each Congressional district.

You owe it to yourself, your family, your community to take part in these important debates and discussions.

Participate in *history in the making!*

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Illinois is the first state in the nation with a solution to the health care crisis.

The Health Care Justice Act sets the stage for a dream come true:

Affordable, quality health insurance for everyone in Illinois.

Now, it's YOUR turn.

Indicia to
Come

The Campaign for Better Health Care

44 East Main Street

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WE'RE MAKING HISTORY...

The Need

From 2000 to 2004, health insurance premiums in Illinois rose by 34.9%. During this same period, average earnings rose by only 13%. Last year, 572,000 non-elderly Illinoisans incurred catastrophic health costs—medical bills totaling one-quarter or more of their annual earnings. The number of non-elderly Illinoisans without health insurance at some point over a two-year period rose from 3.2 million in 2000 to 3.6 in 2004—an increase of more than 400,000 uninsured. *Who pays* when the uninsured must see doctors and go to hospitals? A Families USA study reveals that one-third of the cost is borne by a number of government programs, but two-thirds is paid by people with health insurance through higher premiums.

Controlling Costs

The issue is not more money for health care, but *more* health care for the money we are currently spending. A recent study released by the National Coalition on Health Care reveals that universal coverage will save much more money than it will cost. When everyone is insured, health problems can be dealt with at an early stage or prevented altogether, avoiding expensive treatment or lengthy hospital stays. Universal coverage also can bring savings in administrative costs and greatly increase the efficiency of health care delivery. Whether an employer-financed system, expansion of Medicare-Medicaid, a single-payer design like Canada's, or a variety of insurance options modeled on federal employees' health benefit plan, a universal health care plan tailored specifically for Illinois will result in enormous savings to business, individuals and government.

An Economic Boon for Illinois

Health insurance premiums that continue to rise at double-digit annual rates are having a devastating effect on workers and businesses, across America and here in Illinois. The growing burden of health insurance costs is reducing the competitiveness of U.S. companies in the global economy—and that is costing American jobs. Containment of health care costs for Illinois employers would give them a competitive edge while serving as a significant economic incentive for attracting new businesses to our state. The achievement of cost-containing universal health care reform is an explicit objective of the Health Care Justice Act.

Making History

The Campaign for Better Health Care (CBHC) was founded in 1989 on the belief that accessible, affordable, quality health care is a basic human right. “Everybody in, nobody out” has been the slogan of CBHC, the state's largest health care coalition. The culmination of their efforts is the Health Care Justice Act, a multi-step policy to enact “health care for all” in Illinois by 2007. Sponsors of the Act were then State Sen. Barack Obama and Rep. William Delgado.

A Health Care Task Force was chosen by the Governor and legislative leaders to make recommendations to the General Assembly. Their recommendations will be based largely on what the people of the state tell them in the hearings in each Congressional district. That's why your voice is so important.

Together, we will be writing one of the most important chapters of Illinois history...

Everybody in, nobody out!

YES. I want to make history! I want to help the Health Care Justice Act campaign win affordable, high quality health coverage for every Illinoisan by 2007.

There are many ways to help the campaign and it won't take too much of your time.

I would like to help by: *(check as many boxes as you like)*

- attending a local community meeting
- hosting a health care for all discussion group
- having someone come speak to my club, place of worship, union, organization, etc.
- being trained as a speaker to speak to other organizations
- sharing my personal health care story
- meeting with my local, state and federal elected officials
- volunteering my technology skills (web-site, list-serve, graphics)
- providing campaign support in my community (leafleting, phone calling, etc.)
- mobilizing my family, friends, co-workers and organization's membership to attend town hall meetings, hearing, local events, etc.
- providing child care or other services (signing, translating) for this campaign
- other _____
- Send me information on how I can be a member and/or financially support this effort.

PLEASE PRINT:

Name

Title

Organization

Street Address

City/State/Zip

[H]()

[W]()

Telephone (Home/Work)

Email