

# Health Care is an ECONOMIC HUMAN RIGHT



**Just Health Care** is a proposal for universal health care which would cover ALL residents of the United States *and* save money for 95% of taxpayers.



**Myth:** Only poor people are uninsured.

**Fact:** Millions are uninsured in California, and 4 of 5 people are members of working families. At least 1 in 3 uninsured people come from households with an income above \$50,000. Every minute eight people are denied coverage, charged a higher rate, or discriminated against for a pre-existing condition. Living wage jobs are disappearing or being replaced with low wage jobs that offer limited or no health insurance. Young adults, ages 19 to 29, are the largest group of uninsured people across the country. If young people can find a job, only about 50% are offered coverage through an employer, compared to about 75% of adults over the age 30. In California, the uninsured rate among women ages 18–64 is 21%. Also, gay and lesbian couples are twice as likely to be uninsured as heterosexual couples. Under Just Health Care, everyone at all income levels would be insured less than the current system.



**Myth:** Insurance companies and private hospitals are looking out for our best health interests.

**Fact:** Private insurers spend 30 cents of every dollar on administrative and shareholder costs, and despite the rise in obesity, chronic disease, and threats of bioterrorism, less than 4 cents of every health care dollar is spent on prevention and public health. HMO's make their money by denying services to people -- the less money they pay, the more profit they make. At some point 86.7 million people, 1 in 3 adults, went without healthcare in 2007 and 2008. The Just Health Care plan would take profit out of the system, eliminate needless waste, and cover every US resident.



**Myth:** Most Americans have healthcare through their jobs.

**Fact:** America is the only industrial nation that links healthcare to jobs and yet only 59% of Americans are covered by their jobs. 36% of non-elderly adults, about 12.6 million, who tried to purchase health insurance directly in the individual market, were discriminated against because of a pre-existing condition. The average monthly cost for health insurance for a family of four is over \$1000. Income is directly linked to having access to health care and health insurance. At least 4 in 10 non-elderly women with a family income below the poverty level were uninsured for all or part of 2007. About one-quarter of uninsured adults go without needed care each year due to its cost. 62% of bankruptcies filed in 2007 were due to medical expenses, and of those nearly 80% had health insurance. What about those who are not old enough to work? In America, 8.6 million children, or 1 in 9, go without health insurance. Under Just Health Care, healthcare is a right not a privilege.



**Myth:** Everyone should pay more for our system.

**Fact:** “Experts” across the country say that we need to “share the burden” for our healthcare, but we already pay twice as much per person than any other industrialized country. The average cost of employer-based family health insurance more than doubled over the past decade while wages have increased by less than 35%. The World Health Organization ranked the United States health care system 37<sup>th</sup> in the world for quality and 55<sup>th</sup> in the world for fairness. Why should we pay more for an unfair and inadequate system? Under Just Health Care, only 5% of the population would pay more taxes.



**Myth:** Universal health care is a good idea but we could never pay for it.

**Fact:** Over sixty percent of health spending in the U.S. is funded by government. By eliminating profit, we could save California \$186 billion dollars in the first year. California has over 1500 health coverage plans to choose from and 60% of the care delivered is sub-standard. Hospitals are closing as emergency rooms are the care of last resort - and even these resources are continually threatened.

## Just Health Care: NO EXCEPTIONS!

## The New Health Care Reform Bill at a Glance

- The Health Care Reform Bill should cover about 97% of all Americans.

- *Under a single-payer system, all people would have access to comprehensive coverage.*

Illegal immigrants will not be able to buy health insurance even if it is completely out-of-pocket

Over the next 10 years, the new plan will cost over \$600 billion, and is to suppose to reduce the deficit by \$143 billion.

- *\$400 billion would be saved a year with a single-payer health care system.*

It will be mandated by law to purchase health insurance; however, there will be no limit on insurance companies being able to continually raise premiums and deductibles every year.

- *By June 2010, insurance companies could no longer deny children coverage based on a pre-existing condition, and in 2014 no one can be denied coverage for a pre-existing condition.*

No health care plan will be required to offer abortion coverage, and states can pass legislation to opt out of offering abortion coverage

The public option will supposedly be self-sustaining, and follow the same rules as private insurance companies.

- *This means that the public option will be susceptible to the same "free market" system that current private insurance is a part of.*

Subsidies that will be available to low- and moderate-income people will be inadequate, so insurance will remain unaffordable and underinsurance will continue.

- *By 2014, everyone must purchase health insurance or face a \$695 annual fine.*

## Are We Healthy?

### A Health Care Crisis in Alameda County

- 8.2 million Californians had no health insurance in the past year – over one fifth of the California population, and approximately 200,000 of those people are in Alameda County.
- Approximately 81,000 to 90,000 children and parents in Alameda County are uninsured.
- More than 70% of the County's uninsured are people of color, and more than 50% of those uninsured are immigrants.
- 1 billion in budget cuts and 1,500 jobs have been eliminated in the last 9 years because of a lack of state funding.
- In 2003, 2 county clinics were closed. Those clinics served upwards of 25,000 people.

**We are a Committee of a Million for Just Health Care. Join Us Today!**

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*How Can You Join the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign?*

*-Document the Economic Human Rights Violations that are occurring with your family and in your neighborhood.*

*-Sign the Committee of a Million Petition that is fighting for a Health Care for ALL U.S. residents.*

*([www.justhealthnow.org](http://www.justhealthnow.org))*

*-Come to a Just Health Care training or host a teach-in to educate people about the growing health care crisis and the Just Health Care Campaign.*

*-Start a Poor People's Economic Human Rights Committee on your block, in your workplace or organization, or in your community.*

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**Together, we can win health care for everyone!! Contact us!**

## JUST HEALTH CARE ON THE ROAD

WEAP has conducted over 60 Just Health Care workshops and collected over 1700 documentations of economic human rights violations throughout the state of California. Help us train and document.