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PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS OF AMERICA

HEALTHCARE NOT WARFARE

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As Martin Luther King Jr. observed forty years ago, *“A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.”* While the insurance and pharmaceutical industries post huge profits, the U.S. healthcare crisis grows steadily worse.

Today, nearly one in six Americans has no health insurance. Tens of millions of others are woefully under-insured. Meanwhile the war in Iraq drains our resources and overburdens our budget. Our government’s duty is to protect us—**security begins with our health and well-being at home.** In 2009, we have a historic opportunity to turn from warfare to healthcare for all.

We call on Congress and the leaders of both parties to make this a priority in the upcoming Congress. Commit to redirecting wasteful and unnecessary military spending to meet human needs. This commitment must start with **comprehensive, guaranteed healthcare**—driven by the needs of patients and the judgment of doctors. We call on Congress to support a plan **eliminating any financial barriers** between the patient and healthcare providers that result in a patient not receiving medically necessary care.

We call on members of Congress to bring the troops home from Iraq and to **pass H.R. 676**, Rep. John Conyers’ bill which guarantees comprehensive publicly-funded, privately-delivered healthcare for everyone in the U.S.

“PDA IS THE REAL THING.”

“PDA is the real thing. The organizers of PDA are smart, tenacious, and committed. PDA stood by my side when we battled the corrupt vote count in Ohio, when we held our hearing on the lies exposed in the Downing Street Minutes, and every single day as we keep our eyes on the prize of ending the occupation in Iraq. We continue to work together to pass HR 676, which will create a universal single payer system to guarantee healthcare for all.”

— Rep. John Conyers

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LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FOR **GUARANTEED HEALTH CARE**

Let's End Our National Healthcare Nightmare

Guarantee Healthcare for All with HR 676



Healthcare "should be a right for every American."

—Barack Obama, October 7, 2008

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

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

★ **Our healthcare system is collapsing**

1. Americans are afraid that they can't afford to get sick. One fifth of Americans self-ration care because they can't afford the costs.
2. Insurance companies put their bottom line ahead of our health. People are denied coverage because of age or health, or dropped when they get sick.
3. We have an American system that works. It's Medicare. An expanded and improved "Medicare for All" system, called single payer because one publicly administered pool pays all the medical bills. It is embodied in H.R. 676, sponsored by Rep. John Conyers and 92 other members of Congress.
4. A majority of physicians (59 percent), and an even higher proportion of Americans (62% or more) support single payer.
5. Every other industrialized country has some form of national or single payer healthcare system. That's why the U.S. ranks last among 19 similar countries in preventable deaths—even though we spend twice as much as everyone else.

★ **Why HR 676?**

- Automatic coverage for life for everyone, even if you lose or change your job or move.
- Comprehensive services for all medically necessary care, including prescription drugs, dental, vision, mental health, and long term care.
- Assures choice of doctor and hospital. No penalties for going to someone not approved by your insurance company.
- Revives our economy by creating jobs and substantially reducing businesses' healthcare costs.
- The only way to control cost and keep healthcare affordable. Eliminates administrative waste—private insurance companies divert 30 cents of every healthcare dollar for CEO salaries, profits, and paper work, mostly to deny needed care. Negotiated fee schedules and bulk purchasing power.
- Puts you and your doctor—not insurance companies—in control of your health.

One Nation. One Health Plan for All Americans.

★ **Act Now:** **Tell Your Congress member to support the single payer healthcare bill, HR 676. Call 1-202-224-3121 (main Congressional switchboard, find your representative at www.votesmart.org)**