

Health Care for the Homeless Mobilizer

The National Health Care for the Homeless Council

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Census Reports Over 46 Million Americans Without Health Insurance Ways to Promote the Single Payer Solution

The United States Census Bureau released poverty and health insurance statistics for 2005 on August 29, 2006. These figures show an increase in both the number and percentage of people without health care coverage (up to 46.6 million from 45.3 million in 2004 and up to 15.9 percent from 15.6 percent of the population). Uninsurance increased particularly for children, whites, native-born Americans and those working full-time, and among those making \$50,000 or more. After several years of slight increases, the percentage of people covered by government health care programs did not change from 2004 to 2005¹.

Among HCH clients, the percentage of uninsured changed very little from 2004 to 2005. There was a slight decrease in the percentage of HCH clients receiving Medicaid benefits, from 22.9% in 2004 to 22.2% in 2005, after 5 years of increases in Medicaid enrollment for HCH clients².

The figures reveal that the private sector is providing less health care coverage and that the government is failing to fill the gap in health coverage for poor and working people. Lack of access to health care is becoming a middle class issue and may get more attention than in the past.

Pending Federal legislation proposes a solution the widespread lack of access to health care. H.R. 676 would provide equal access to all medically necessary health care for all individuals residing in the United States, including primary care, preventive care, prescription drugs, emergency care, and mental health services. While the health care *delivery* system would remain private, health care services would be *paid for* by the government, cutting out the wasteful and unproductive health insurance industry. This “single payer” system is a long-standing priority of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council and numerous other organizations. Learn more at www.nhchc.org/singlepayer.html. Today, 75 United States Representatives are co-sponsors of HR 676. Securing additional House sponsors and identifying a lead sponsor in the Senate are critical to the success of this legislation.

¹ DeNevas-Walt, C., Proctor, B., and Lee, C. (2006). U.S. Census Bureau, Current Populations Reports, P60-231, *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2005*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC. <http://www.census.gov/prod/2006pubs/p60-231.pdf>

² Uniform Data System, Health Resources & Services Administration.

ACTION:

- **Call or write your US Representative and ask him or her to support H.R. 676.**
- **If your Representative is a co-sponsor (see list below), express thanks for the position.**
- **Ask your Senator to introduce a Senate companion to H.R. 676.**
- **Ask your candidates for public office what they propose to do to solve the growing problems of health care access and affordability. Inform HCH clients, staff, Board members and others about their responses. Help homeless persons register to vote.**

Members of the Senate can be reached at <http://www.senate.gov> and members of the House can be reached at <http://www.house.gov> or through the Capitol switchboard at 202/224-3121.

Talking points:

- H.B. 676 provides equal access to health care for everyone while reducing cost and increasing the percentage of dollars that go to providing services.
- H.B. 676 proposes to reduce the influences of corporate greed, ineffective management, and waste on the quality and availability of health care services. The current private health care system failed lower income families years ago and now it is failing the middle class. It is time to change our health care structure.

Current Co-Sponsors of H.R. 676:

Rep Abercrombie, Neil [HI-1]	Rep Honda, Michael M. [CA-15]	Rep Rangel, Charles B. [NY-15]
Rep Baldwin, Tammy [WI-2]	Rep Jackson, Jesse L., Jr. [IL-2]	Rep Reyes, Silvestre [TX-16]
Rep Becerra, Xavier [CA-31]	Rep Jackson-Lee, Sheila [TX-18]	Rep Roybal-Allard, Lucille [CA-34]
Rep Bishop, Sanford D., Jr. [GA-2]	Rep Johnson, Eddie Bernice [TX-30]	Rep Rush, Bobby L. [IL-1]
Rep Brown, Corrine [FL-3]	Rep Jones, Stephanie Tubbs [OH-11]	Rep Sanchez, Linda T. [CA-39]
Rep Brown, Sherrod [OH-13]	Rep Kaptur, Marcy [OH-9]	Rep Sanders, Bernard [VT]
Rep Capuano, Michael E. [MA-8]	Rep Kilpatrick, Carolyn C. [MI-13]	Rep Schakowsky, Janice D. [IL-9]
Rep Carson, Julia [IN-7]	Rep Kucinich, Dennis J. [OH-10]	Rep Scott, Robert C. [VA-3]
Rep Christensen, Donna M. [VI]	Rep Lantos, Tom [CA-12]	Rep Serrano, Jose E. [NY-16]
Rep Clay, Wm. Lacy [MO-1]	Rep Lee, Barbara [CA-9]	Rep Solis, Hilda L. [CA-32]
Rep Conyers, John, Jr. [MI-14]	Rep Lewis, John [GA-5]	Rep Stark, Fortney Pete [CA-13]
Rep Cummings, Elijah E. [MD-7]	Rep Lynch, Stephen F. [MA-9]	Rep Thompson, Bennie G. [MS-2]
Rep Davis, Danny K. [IL-7]	Rep Maloney, Carolyn B. [NY-14]	Rep Tierney, John F. [MA-6]
Rep Delahunt, William D. [MA-10]	Rep McDermott, Jim [WA-7]	Rep Towns, Edolphus [NY-10]
Rep Doyle, Michael F. [PA-14]	Rep McGovern, James P. [MA-3]	Rep Udall, Tom [NM-3]
Rep Engel, Eliot L. [NY-17]	Rep McKinney, Cynthia A. [GA-4]	Rep Velazquez, Nydia M. [NY-12]
Rep Evans, Lane [IL-17]	Rep McNulty, Michael R. [NY-21]	Rep Visclosky, Peter J. [IN-1]
Rep Farr, Sam [CA-17]	Rep Meehan, Martin T. [MA-5]	Rep Waters, Maxine [CA-35]
Rep Fattah, Chaka [PA-2]	Rep Miller, George [CA-7]	Rep Watson, Diane E. [CA-33]
Rep Filner, Bob [CA-51]	Rep Nadler, Jerrold [NY-8]	Rep Waxman, Henry A. [CA-30]
Rep Frank, Barney [MA-4]	Rep Napolitano, Grace F. [CA-38]	Rep Weiner, Anthony D. [NY-9]
Rep Green, Al [TX-9]	Rep Norton, Eleanor Holmes [DC]	Rep Wexler, Robert [FL-19]
Rep Grijalva, Raul M. [AZ-7]	Rep Olver, John W. [MA-1]	Rep Woolsey, Lynn C. [CA-6]
Rep Gutierrez, Luis V. [IL-4]	Rep Owens, Major R. [NY-11]	Rep Wynn, Albert Russell [MD-4]
Rep Hastings, Alcee L. [FL-23]	Rep Pastor, Ed [AZ-4]	
Rep Hinchey, Maurice D. [NY-22]	Rep Payne, Donald M. [NJ-10]	

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