

Health Care Reform – YOUR voice is needed NOW!

**Senators Patty Murray & Maria Cantwell MUST hear from YOU.
Please take action ASAP, at least by July 20, 2009**

Senator Patty Murray
202-224-2621
murray.senate.gov/email/

Senator Maria Cantwell
202-224-3441
cantwell.senate.gov/contact/

Dear Senators Murray and Cantwell,

Democrats have a majority. Not just a majority but 60 votes! Do not let Republicans, big Pharma, big Insurance, or for-profit Plans bully you. Please think of me and my family as you make health care reform decisions that will affect all Americans for decades. Here is what we want:

- **SINGLE-PAYER IS THE BEST SOLUTION!** Single-payer would eliminate billions spent on administrative paperwork, end the pressure on health care providers to over-treat, over-test and put health back into health care. The insurance industry has proven that it denies people health care. For-profit insurance / for-profit health companies have the wrong motive. Single payer is the **only** solution that covers everyone! Americans want universal coverage, affordability, choice of doctors, portability, less paperwork, less money spent on administration, and improved health. Single payer is the only way to achieve these objectives. It is unconscionable that a few Senators decided Single Payer was “off the table.”
- **UNIVERSAL:** Everyone in the USA should have complete health care coverage that is not dependent upon having employment, being married to someone who has employment, or denied because of health conditions.
- **PUBLIC OPTION:** The vast majority of the public - including me - **want a public option** -- not a private co-op. The public option must be national, affordable, cover everyone and able to effectively counteract today's exorbitant cost of insurance and the insurance company practice of denying claims to increase their profits.
 - In fact, a recent public opinion poll showed three-fourths of Americans want a public option.
 - We do not want to wait for a “trigger.” We want a public option on Day One.
- **BENEFITS:** We want decisions about what is covered, and how health care benefits are regulated to be made by public health experts, not by politicians, insurance companies, for-profit health administrators or pharmaceutical company owners/investors. We have already witnessed the disastrous results of Wall Street insiders regulating the financial industry.
 - Keep politics and religion out of decisions about what is covered.
 - Focus on covering people, not on denying coverage.
 - Pregnancy and birth related decisions must be made by in the individual pregnant woman, not by politicians or health plans. Health care providers should not decide where and how a woman gives birth or make any other decisions about her pregnancy.
 - Women's reproductive health care must be covered completely because **it is basic primary care**.
 - Abortion must be covered. Did you know that **one in three** American women have an abortion in their lifetimes? Here in Washington State, most private insurance and our State Medicaid plan cover abortion. It works well here. Learn from your home state. Do not impose a Hyde-like policy that would deny this fundamental human right and very important part of health care.
 - Regulations should be neutral on abortion.
 - Comprehensive family planning = YES. Abstinence-only-until-marriage = NO. It doesn't work.
- **EQUITY:** We believe in equity and inclusion. Ratings based upon age and/or gender is discrimination and wrong. Discrimination based upon citizenship or nationality is wrong. Mental health and alternative treatments like chiropractic, acupuncture, substance abuse treatment, etc should be covered fully.
- **SAVE \$:** The Congressional Budget Office assessment says universal health care is not only affordable and will work, but it will also save money. It seems obvious there is easily enough money being spent in the USA to cover everyone in USA if we restructure how it is spent.

We're counting on YOU to be a voice for real health care reform!