



JOIN THE HEALTH CARE FIGHT



## Why I Support Health Insurance Reform

During the last 11 months I have been diagnosed with ovarian cancer, been through brutal chemotherapy, been dumped by my oncologist, received successful surgery, had serious heart problems diagnosed (my heart stopped twice while in recovery), had a pacemaker implanted, spent several weeks at a rehab center -- AND IT COST ME OUT OF POCKET \$147.00. As a senior, I am blessed to have Medicare and excellent insurance through my union. I strongly support a public option. What happens when my former employer can no longer afford to maintain this policy?

**Barbara Gunther**  
Retired Steelworker  
New York

## Where Our Union Stands on Reform:

*"You can't even think about negotiating for a wage increase because the whole negotiation is about trying to keep the benefits you already have. That's not just the fault of the employer. It's the fault of a broken health care system that's sucking up all the money." – President Obama*

Our union believes health care for all is the civil rights issue of our time. And the moment for action is now. But not all reform plans are the same, and not all are good for working families.

### **We support a plan with these essential components:**

- ✓ Affordable options and reform of insurance practices that will result in health care for all Americans, and increased bargaining power for our members who are forced to sacrifice wages, health and safety improvements, pensions and other important issues because of the rising cost of health benefits.
- ✓ A public option that will lower costs by competing with the private sector and offer coverage for Americans who cannot afford alternatives.
- ✓ No taxation for employer-provided insurance and rules to ensure big employers retain coverage.
- ✓ Shared responsibility by requiring all employers to provide coverage, also known as "pay to play."
- ✓ Significant cost containment to help families, retirees, businesses and our governments.
- ✓ A federally funded catastrophic reinsurance program to help employers and VEBAs that provide benefits for pre-Medicare retirees ages 55-64.

**For more information, visit [www.usw.org/healthcare](http://www.usw.org/healthcare)**