



JOIN THE HEALTH CARE FIGHT



Why I Support Health Insurance Reform

My wife, Paula, lost her mother to ovarian cancer. Her older sister and an aunt also had cancer. Paula and our son had good health insurance through our USW plan. But that didn't stop a big insurer from denying care, including genetic testing for cancer in June 2006. In August 2006, my wife started suffering from swollen legs and joints and body soreness. Doctors recommended tests including a CT scan that was denied. My wife called the insurer repeatedly but every time was denied. Finally, I called a friend at Highmark who was able to get the scan approved. It was now late October. In November, she was diagnosed with stage 3 lung cancer and given 2-5 years to live. She passed away Sunday, April 15, 2007, at 9:12 p.m. at age 47. I am now left to raise our 9-year-old son by myself. We also have eight grandchildren. There needs to be health insurance reform.

Dave Wolfe
USW Staff
North Versailles, Pa.

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