



JOIN THE HEALTH CARE FIGHT



Why I Support Health Insurance Reform



I like millions of others in this country have lost my health insurance. My rates increased – almost tripled - due to some medical issues that surfaced last year. None of the issues are very serious, but existing none the less. I am a 60-year-old self-supporting female, self employed - so insurance for me is something that must be acquired on my own. I couldn't afford the rate increase so now I'm without any coverage. It is a must from my standpoint that health care reform be achieved. It is absolutely impossible for me to afford insurance without some major changes in this country. At least give those of us who need help the opportunity to select a public option.

Debbie Mefferd
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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