



Gettysburg Area DFA

Progressive Values/Fiscal Responsibility
DEMOCRACY for AMERICA

Energizing democracy
at the grass roots

June 2009

June 3 Meet-Up Launches Campaign for Health Care Reform

Gettysburg Area DFA's campaign in support of a single payer/private provider approach to health care reform will get a serious boost with the showing of *Sick around the World*, a PBS Frontline documentary profiling health care systems in five countries, on **Wednesday, June 3, at 7:00 PM in Room 206 of Valentine Hall at the Lutheran Seminary** in Gettysburg. The documentary, which lasts one hour, will be followed by a question and answer session led by Dr. Dwight Michael, a physician and advocate for health care reform.

During the evening, audience members will be encouraged to sign up to serve as hosts for additional showings of the documentary over the next several months. Volunteers are asked to invite five to ten (or more) friends and neighbors to their home (or church group) to view the video. Hosts will be equipped with an information packet to assist them in leading a discussion of the film and exploring options for further action on health care (See page two for details.)

The documentary, which features long-time *Washington Post* journalist T.R. Reid, explores how countries ranging from Britain, Germany, and Switzerland to Japan and Taiwan have met the challenge of providing top-quality health care to all their citizens at an affordable cost. According to DFA Health Task Force committee member Will Lane, "All five countries offer universal coverage of all medical and dental expenses. And all five manage to do so while spending half of what the U.S. already spends on health care per capita each year. Other industrialized countries take care of their people? Why can't we?"

Through this house-party approach, DFA's Health Care Task Force hopes to promote a commitment to health care as a basic human right and to inform the community about existing, sustainable options for delivering on that commitment. They also see this strategy as useful for building the pool of potential citizen lobbyists and taking our health care message to a wider audience. An extensive lobbying campaign with elected officials is planned for the summer and fall. On Thursday, June 11, task force members and others will participate in a Rally and Lobby Day for Health Care Reform on the State Capital steps in Harrisburg in support of single payer health care for Pennsylvania (House Bill: 1660 and Senate Bill: 400).

The Health Care Task Force strongly encourages you to bring friends and neighbors to this important meeting. Please step forward and help us build the broad-based movement we will need to bring real health care reform to our state and country!

—Will Lane, Newsletter Editor—

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America spends twice as much per capita as Europe and Japan on health care but still can't provide universal access.

How come?

More than half of bankruptcies in America result from a family health crisis and soaring medical bills.

Find out what can be done at our June 3 Meet-Up!

Can You Help Us by Hosting a House Party?

By presenting *Sick around the World*, the PBS Frontline documentary on health care systems around the world, in as many homes and churches as possible in our area we can engage people in dialogue about the health care crisis and build support for meaningful health care reform. Can you help us? Here's what we hope you will do as a host for your event:

- Invite five to ten (or more) friends and neighbors to your home (or church group) for the one-hour showing
- Serve light refreshments (recommended, not required)
- Appoint a note taker and then lead a discussion after the video (using questions and talking points provided in a "host" packet)
- Recruit people willing to host a follow-up showing in their home or church
- Present options for further action and more information (outlined in the packet)
- Report back via email to the contact person for the *Sick around the World* campaign
- Encourage others to write and send stories of their own encounters with the health care system to the contact person and their elected representatives
- Promptly return the video or pass it on to a new host (as appropriate)

To schedule a house party, email Will Lane at wlane@gettysburg.edu or call 339-6305. Thanks, in advance, for your help with this effort!

Gettysburg Area DFA Elects New Steering Committee

—Elaine Jones—

Almost five years ago we created the Gettysburg Area DFA to organize progressives in Adams County to "take back our country" and we are well on our way! I am pleased to see the new energy evidenced at our Annual Meeting on May 6th. Not only did we elect new officers and steering committee (listed below) but we adopted an ambitious strategy for supporting Pennsylvania's Singlepayer Healthcare Bill, supported the Community Services Tuna Collection Drive, and advanced our commitment to saving energy and tackling the global climate crisis through the EES task force. Welcome to our newly elected officers [indicated by *].

Chair – **Elaine Jones** elainelynjones@gmail.com Vice Chair – **Wendy Mizenko** wmizenko@tsg.edu

Secretary – **Ginny Ciliotta** vciliotta@pa.net

Treasurer – ***Jeanne Neylon** jeanneneylon@embarqmail.com

EES Task Force – **Peter Boving** boving@juno.com

Healthcare Task Force – **Patricia Hammann** lhammann@gettysburg.edu

Community Services – **Denise Weldon-Siviy** weldonsiviy@yahoo.com

Candidate Development – **Maggie Abbott-Fowler** apropoetess@hotmail.com

At Large Members – ***R. Lasco, Will Lane, Lou Hammann, *Joe Breighner**

TUNA Drive (news from Denise Weldon-Siviy)

Earlier this month, the DFA Community Service committee was proud to deliver just under 300 cans of TUNA to SCCAP's Food Pantry. The TUNA drive also netted 4 bags of misc. groceries which were passed on to the Gettysburg Community Soup Kitchen.



Family and Business Health Security Act (SB: 400 and HB 1660) The PA Single Payer Bill At-a-Glance

1. Universal coverage
2. Single Payer Efficiency and Savings
 - Eliminates for-profit insurance companies
 - Helps doctors and hospitals reduce administrative costs
3. Comprehensive—not “bare bones”
 - Unlimited medical, dental, prescription drugs, equipment, home care, mental health, optical, substance abuse, hospice, long term, emergency transport, physical and occupational therapy
4. Helps both employees and employers
 - Employees can change jobs, retire, start a new business, or advance their education without fearing loss of coverage
 - Employers are freed from the burden of providing health care privately at a high cost
5. Eliminates the waste of “defensive medicine,” reduces malpractice premiums
6. Preserves patient choice of doctors
7. Eliminates the high cost of private insurance and replaces it with a standard 10% payroll contribution from employers and a 3% assessment from all individuals
8. Eliminates waste without denying access
 - Uses buying clout to negotiate better drug prices
 - Stresses aggressive infection control procedures
 - Deals with problem doctors and hospitals
 - Restores Certificate of Need program (to control purchase of non-essential major equipment)
 - Underwrites transition to electronic records
 - Promotes preventative care and adopts a wellness curriculum in schools
9. Supports volunteer emergency responders with tax credits

Feasibility Study Funding in Limbo

Funding for a study to see whether the above single payer bill is financially feasible for Pennsylvania awaits final approval in the legislature. Email or call your reps and get them moving on this critical step forward in the struggle for decent health care for all. Rep. Dan Moul: (717) 334-3010 , (717) 783-5217 ; Rep. Will Tallman: wtallman@pahousegov.com; (717) 633-1721; Senator Rich Alloway: alloway@pasen.gov, 717-787-4651 and 717-334-4169.

Iraq Task Force "on hold"

DFA's Iraq Task Force has opted to become in-active. In our four years of action, we have accomplished much: two group visits to our congressmen in D.C. to urge withdrawal from Iraq; participation in two anti-war rallies in D.C.; bringing Larry Wilkerson, aide to Colin Powell, to Gettysburg to speak; bringing three veteran members of Iraq Veterans Against the War to speak to a community meeting. We still feel strongly that these wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are a mistake and need to end soon. And there is a need to press Obama to keep his pledge to do just that. But most of us are working hard on other issues such as health-care reform and energy sustainability. When new members are ready to re-convene this Task Force, we will be fully supportive.

—Alan Olson and Lou Hammann, co-conveners—

Gettysburg Area DFA Calendar of Events

Gettysburg DFA Meet-Up

Wednesday, **June 3** in Room 206 of Valentine Hall at the Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg. An hour-long PBS Frontline documentary on health care systems around the world entitled ***Sick around the World*** with discussion led by Dr. Dwight Michael. Light refreshments at 6:30 PM, program at 7:00 PM (details on page one).

EES Meeting

Environment, Energy, Sustainability. New Task Force meets again on Wednesday, **June 10** at 6:30 PM in the Eisenhower Room at the Adams County Library in Gettysburg.

Health Care Reform Rally and Lobby Day

11:30 AM, Thursday, June 11, at the Capitol in Harrisburg. Contact Pat Hammann at 334-4488 for carpooling information.

Steering Committee

All are welcome. Wednesday, **June 17**, at 7:00 PM in Valentine Hall. Contact Elaine Jones, Chair, for details at 677-9442 or elainelynychjones@gmail.com

Gettysburg Area DFA Newsletter

c/o Elaine Jones, Chair

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