

Opponents will do Anything to Scuttle Reform

I've been around, I'm not young anymore, I've seen a lot - but last night was like nothing I've ever experienced. Congressman Dingell's forum was stormed by hundreds of "teabaggers" intent on bringing down the forum. There was a huge picture of President Obama distorted to look like Hitler, shouting, vulgar language and physical intimidation. People screaming lies about the bill - like "they're going to euthanize you." Perhaps the saddest thing I saw was a father and his 6 or 7 year old son - father was trying to provoke a fight with reform supporters by calling them "stupid f**kers" and poking his finger in people's chests all while his son stood by with his fingers in his ears to shut out as much as he could of the aggressive shouting. Police had to intervene in both of the 1 hour "forums"

MichUHCAN member Marcia Boehm was the uninsured spokesperson for the forum. Marcia is a very short person in stature and her disabilities

require her to use crutches to get around. Marcia teaches at Madonna part-time and owns a small business. She has been uninsured since last December and can't afford insurance due to her "pre-existing conditions." She was booed, heckled and physically intimidated. Marcia stood her ground with grace, dignity, authority and self-respect. (You can see Marcia on our blog at www.michuhcan.org, the guy in the black beret hassling her was eventually escorted out by police.)

It's a battle out there - clearly some opponents of reform will stop at nothing. **We can't afford to be passive, complacent or expect that things will turn out OK whether or not I pitch in. We can't afford to delete the emails that ask us to make a call without taking action. We can't afford to just make the call ourselves without forwarding the email to someone we know with a personal request that they take the time to**

make the call too. We can't afford to complain about negative letters to the editor without writing one ourselves (I've got templates, let me know and I'll be happy to forward them to you). We need to sign up friends, co-workers, family to be part of our rapid response team - people who agree to contact their legislators when we ask them to contact me and I'll get them the forms.

I am fired up and ready to redouble my efforts to promote health care reform that makes quality, affordable health care for all a reality! We know lives are at stake here, 22,000 people die yearly because they don't have health insurance and that number will only continue to grow, this is a battle we have to win.



Congressman Dingell Health Care Forum - A reform opponent shouts obscenities in front of his son.

Own a Small Business?

You have an important role to play in Health Care Reform. We need you to help make the case many small business owners welcome reform efforts. Give us a call at 734-812-0664 or email michuhcan@sbcglobal.net.

TR Reid's New Book Arrive Aug. 20th

The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper and Fairer Health Care is coming out on August 20th. Reid spoke at our Health Care Heroes' Dinner, and we've had many inquiries about when it's coming out.

Finland: A 2009 Spring Visit

Viewpoint

Barbara McLean, M. A. Ed. S.
Licensed Professional Counselor

After a year of baking *karjalan piirakkaa* and *pulla*, holding bake sales, car washes, a wellness fair, musical events, and other fundraising, I was one of two professors supervising six Finlandia University *Finlandia Connection* nursing and human services students on a trip to Finland. This was my colleague Debbie Karstu's 5th *Finlandia Connection* trip. She had lived in Finland and worked there as a nurse, and she had nurtured contacts deep within the health and social service organizations. We visited well-established programs in the health, educational, psychiatric, and social care systems, and we visited

programs which even in Finland are pioneering programs. The quiet welcoming hospitality of the Finns was remarkable. We were fed delicious, healthy, fresh food – laced with berries, rye bread, yogurt, buttermilk – in conference rooms, cafeterias, apartments, and homes.

Most remarkable and memorable to me, however, was the general attitude toward those most in need. While walking – very popular in Finland – across the campus of Diaconia (The Deaconess Institute) with out Diaconia hosts, Markku Niskanen and Tuommo Leinonen, one of them softly pointed out the small apartments for people with alcoholism. The two of them agreed that everyone deserved a roof over their heads whether successfully in recovery or not. In fact they said “we think there are benefits to the society when people have shelter and food. We think they use less and crime is decreased as well.” In the United States, by contrast, many people seem to believe that shelter, food, and health care

are only for those who deserve them. Of all the programs, preventions, parent and family support systems, nurses in the schools giving physicals, good preventive health care, low infant mortality rates, respectable care for long-term mental illness, good elder care with saunas and direct access to an outdoor patio in every apartment at the places I visited in Vaasa, addressing the immigrants new and old – what stays with me and is now something I consider when thinking of health care and systems – is the attitude at Diaconia exemplified by Markku and Tuomo of everyone deserving a shelter and access to health care.

Public Option!

Government Takeover of Health Care!

Here's Your Chance to Get the Truth

Talk to Real Canadians about their health care system - Learn How You can Win Health Care for All in America

Friday August 28 7:00 to 9:00

IBEW Local 58 Hall

1358 Abbott (Enter off Porter Street, east of Trumbull)

Detroit MI 48226

Sponsored by SE Michigan Jobs with Justice

Walk for the Uninsured

Saturday August 15, 2009 10:00 a.m. Belle Isle, Detroit

You can walk to raise money through pledges or flat rate donations to support the Health Authority's uncompensated care pool, which will help underwrite the cost of primary care for the uninsured in Wayne County.

www.healthaccess1.org

Jackson, MI Rally

There are those who stand in the way of progress, and wish to stop the health care reform American families so desperately need. To combat the voices of a loud few, come join us as we stand together will all who support health care reform.

Thursday August 13, 2009 @ 3:30 PM

Congressman Mark Schauer's District Office
800 West Ganson
Jackson, MI 49202

Yes we can! Pay for Health Care for All!

Cost estimated: The cost estimates [called scoring] by the Congressional Budget Office for health care reform have ranged from \$1.6 Trillion [Kennedy's first bill] to \$900 Billion [present Baucus proposal] over 10 – count 'em – **10 years!** That means that we are actually talking about needing \$90 to \$160 Billion a year in revenue.

Cost savings; though all of these are not a dollar for dollar offset against the cost of reform they make the cost of reform lower.

1.	Reducing Medicare payments to private insurers	\$15 Billion
2.	Transfer delivery of care to a "medical home" model we can save as much as	\$67 Billion
3.	Implementing 'health insurance coverage' with a 'public choice' of insurance nationally	\$26.5 Billion
4.	Reducing Drug prices	\$10 Billion
5.	Improving post-hospital care and reducing readmissions	\$2 Billion
6.	MediCare payment adjustments	\$10 Billion
7.	Changing home health reimbursement rate	\$3 Billion
Total:		\$143.5 Billion

Increase revenue: There are many proposals for increasing revenue. Here are some of them [all figures are annual]

1.	Cut back Bush tax cuts for people earning \$250,000	\$114 Billion
2.	Additional income tax for high income people	\$55 Billion
3.	Limit some itemized deductions	\$31.8 Billion
4.	Taxing health premiums worth \$25,000 or more	\$100 Billion
5.	Expand MediCare payroll tax 1% for high income earners	\$44.7 Billion
6.	Raise tax on capital gains and dividends to same as wages	\$34.7 Billion
7.	Eliminate certain tax subsidies to Wall Street	\$15 Billion
8.	Reduce tax incentives for offshore investment	\$12.4 Billion
9.	Eliminate preferential tax rate for 'carried interest	\$3 Billion
10.	Various sin taxes	\$20 Billion
TOTAL:		\$430.6 Billion

The question for your Congressional Representatives and Senators is, "Do you care more about protecting the dollars of special interests, or about giving me a secure health care future?"

What Not a MichUHCAN Member!?!

This could be the year - We need your help, now more than ever!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Select Membership Level:

If you are joining as an organization we ask you to please \$100

Health Care Champion - \$100

Health Care Leader - \$75

Health Care Steward - \$50

Health Care Supporter - \$20

Low Income/Student - \$5

Make Checks Payable to: MichUHCAN – 15687 Surrey – Livonia, MI 48154

To use your credit card visit www.michuhcan.org MichUHCAN is a 501c3 non-profit and all contributions are tax-deductible.