

Why We Need Just Health Care

Sample Letter to Candidate

November 3, 2003

Dear Candidate,

As you well know, health care in the United States is in crisis. Nearly 44 million Americans have no health insurance and many millions more are under-insured, forgoing needed care and medication because of high co-payments and deductibles.

Americans are ready for change. A poll by the Kellogg Foundation found that 79 percent of Americans believe access to health care should be a right. In the past year alone, the proportion of Americans who prefer a government-operated system jumped from 25 to 36 percent according to a survey by the Employee Benefits Research Institute.

We don't need more so-called reforms that amount to band-aids on a gaping wound. We need a plan that guarantees quality care for every resident of the United States and that provides a fair and equitable way to pay for it. The Labor Party has developed such a plan. We call it Just Health Care. We challenge you to take an important step toward solving our nation's health care crisis by making Just Health Care a key component of your campaign.

By eliminating administrative waste and profit in the health care system, the United States can provide comprehensive health care coverage to every resident of the United States for the same total amount of money (an estimated \$1.213 trillion for 1999) that we now spend. The Labor Party proposes to keep most existing government revenues in place (nearly half the current U.S. health care budget); implement a variety of mechanisms to make the wealthy pay their fair share; and impose a modest tax on all employers (a windfall for employers now purchasing health care). A briefing paper detailing the Just Health Care financing plan is enclosed.

Key Features of the Just Health Care Budget

Employer contribution of 5.5 percent of payroll:	\$255.1 billion
Income tax on the wealthiest 5 percent of taxpayers:	\$161.9 billion
Tax on stock and bond transactions:	\$128.4 billion
Corporate tax shelter loopholes:	\$60 billion
Existing federal and state tax revenues:	\$533.3 billion
Household out of pocket costs and existing non-patient revenues:	\$74.8 billion
Total Revenue:	\$1.213 trillion

– over –

Why We Need Just Health Care Candidate Letter (page two)

Candidate X
November 3, 2003
page two of two

The savings from the elimination of private insurance will come at the expense of jobs in the health care industry. The Labor Party believes we have an obligation to provide a just transition for these workers. Just Transition's goal is to alleviate the financial burden of eliminating health care jobs and to make it easier to find another job at a comparable salary.

Just Transition will be funded, in part, by the money "saved" by those employers who previously paid more than 5.5 percent of their payroll for health benefits. The difference between what was paid previously and the amount paid with the 5.5 percent will be taxed over a specific time period as a windfall profit tax.

Every worker who loses his or her job because of the transition to Just Health Care will receive:

- ★ Full take-home pay and benefits for up to four years, or
- ★ A four-year wage subsidy for any worker who takes a job that pays less than the old job; and
- ★ Full tuition for up to four years if the worker chooses to attend school.

We challenge you, as a candidate for [name of office, e.g., Congress], to adopt our program or provide the American people an explanation of why it should not be adopted.

Sincerely,

Name of Union Leader
Name of Union and Title

Enclosure: Labor Party Briefing Paper on Just Health Care Financing