

# **Why We Need Just Health Care**

## **Sample Letter to the Editor**

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Dear Editor,

When it comes to the health care of all Americans, why can't the candidates get it right? After years of crisis and promises by the politicians, my health care is less secure than ever. After working hard all my life, I pay more for less coverage. My retirement is less secure as Medicare crumbles and companies renege on their promises to provide "lifetime" coverage. If I lose my job, I lose all my benefits. My children will lose all coverage as soon as they turn 21.

And I am one of the lucky ones. At least I have insurance. Nearly 45 million of our friends and neighbors have no coverage at all. Most of them work just as hard as I do but are forced to live in fear that everything they worked for could be lost with one family medical emergency.

My union has fought long and hard to maintain decent medical insurance. Bitter strikes have been waged. Valuable dollars that could have gone to wages or pensions have been set aside at the bargaining table to provide health insurance. Yet we have come to understand that this problem cannot be solved at the bargaining table. Like every other industrialized country in the world, we need a comprehensive program of national health insurance for all Americans.

That's why my union recently endorsed the Labor Party's campaign for Just Health Care. We call for a national system of health insurance that eliminates the massive waste and profiteering of private insurance companies. Everyone would be covered regardless of employment status and each person would have the right to pick their own doctors and other providers. By taking the profit and waste out of the system, and by making the rich pay their fair share, we could easily pay for national health insurance so that 95% of all Americans would pay less than they are currently paying.

The politicians understand all of this. The polls have shown that the American people consistently favor health care for all. Yet they offer little more than band-aid solutions. It seems to me that most candidates are putting the interests of the insurance and big pharmaceutical companies ahead of the needs and desires of the vast majority of the American people. This will go on as long as we, the people, let it happen.

Whoever wins this November better understand that this issue will not go away. Alongside millions of other Americans, I intend to continue the fight for a comprehensive, single payer cradle to grave coverage for all Americans where individuals select their own providers and where there are no premium costs, no deductibles, no co-pays, no insurance forms, no hassles and where there is Just Health Care.