
February 24, 2010

Dear Mr. President and Members of Congress:

We are communities of faith who have supported comprehensive health care reform for decades. We have also offered vocal support – and occasional constructive criticism – of the health care reform effort over the last year. We write to you at this critical juncture to urge you to complete the task at hand on behalf of the millions who are left out and left behind in our current health care system.

Opportunities to comprehensively address our broken health care system are rare. Decades of failed attempts at reform testify to the difficulty of this task, and we know that the current effort has not been easy. However, we now stand closer than ever before to historic health care reform. Turning back now could mean justice delayed for another generation and an unprecedented opportunity lost.

We know that no comprehensive health care reform bill will be perfect. (Indeed, if any piece of legislation ever fulfills our full vision, our vision is far too small.) However, we also know – as providers and consumers of services and care – that inaction at this critical moment is no way forward:

- Without reform, tens of thousands will continue to die needlessly each year for lack of access to care.
- Without reform, tens of millions will remain uninsured and without adequate access to a full range of services.
- Without reform, health costs will continue to grow much faster than wages.
- Without reform, many millions of hard-working people and their children will join the ranks of the uninsured and underinsured.
- Without reform, businesses, staggered by increasing employee health costs, will either drop coverage or will be unable to make needed investments.
- Without reform, the nation's economy – and its ability to create jobs – will suffer.

As people of faith, we envision a society where every person is afforded health, wholeness and human dignity. Martin Luther King, Jr. famously wrote in his “Letter from Birmingham Jail” that “justice too long delayed is justice denied.” Less well known is his admonition that “of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.” Let us not delay health care justice any longer. This is your moment for political courage, vision, leadership and faith. We urge you to take heart and move meaningful health care reform forward.

Sincerely,

National Faith Leaders

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President and General Minister
United Church of Christ

Sister Simone Campbell

Executive Director
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Rabbi Eric Yoffie

President
Union for Reform Judaism

National Organizations

Adorers of the Blood of Christ	Mennonite Church USA
African Methodist Episcopal Church	Mercy Associates
American Association of Pastoral Counselors	Metropolitan Community Churches, Global Justice Ministry
American Baptist Churches, USA	National Black Church Initiative
American Friends Service Committee	National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA
American Muslim Health Professionals	National Episcopal Health Ministries
Apostolic Catholic Church	National Ministries, American Baptist Churches, USA
Association of Professional Chaplains	NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
The Beatitudes Society	PICO National Network
The Blue Mountain Lotus Society (Buddhist)	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office
Buddhist Peace Fellowship	Progressive Christian Alliance
Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good	Progressive National Baptist Convention
Church Women United	Sisters of Mercy
Community of Christ Ecumenical Ministries	Sisters of St. Joseph
Daughters of Mary and Joseph	School Sisters of Notre Dame
Disciples Home Missions, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	Sisters of St. Joseph Third Order of St. Francis Leadership Team
Disciples Justice Action Network	Sisters of the Holy Names
The Episcopal Church	Sojourners
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	The National Advocacy Center, Sisters of the Good Shepherd
Evangelicals for Social Action	The Universal Anglican Church
Faithful America	Union for Reform Judaism
Faithful Reform in Health Care	United Church of Christ
Friends Committee on National Legislation	United Church of Christ, United Black Christians
Interfaith Worker Justice	United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
Islamic Medical Association of North America	Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
Islamic Society of North America	Ursuline Sisters
Jewish Reconstructionist Federation	World Without Borders Interfaith Sufi Ashram
Jewish Women International	
Maryknoll Sisters	
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office	

State/Regional Organizations

Albany Area United Methodist Church, New York	Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi
Arizona Ecumenical Council	Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin
Arkansas Interfaith Alliance	Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry in New Jersey
Arkansas Methodist Federation for Social Action	Lutheran Office of Public Policy, California
California Church Impact	Lutheran Office on Public Policy, Maryland
California Council of Churches	Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State
Central States Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	Maine Council of Churches
Christian Activities Coalition, Connecticut	MICAH Project, Washington
Coalition of Religious Communities, Utah	Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network
Collaborative Center for Justice, Inc., Connecticut	Mid-Michigan Coalition for Health Care Reform
Colorado Council of Churches	Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates, Oregon
Daughters of Mary and Joseph, California	Mississippi Human Services Coalition
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families	Missouri Health Care for All
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon	Missouri IMPACT
Faith Inspired Alliance for Health Care Reform, Washington	Missouri Jobs with Justice
Florida-Bahamas Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	Montgomery Health Care Action (MHCA), Maryland
Florida Church Women United	New Mexico Conference of Churches
Ecumenical Action Florida Council of Churches	North Carolina Council of Churches
Health Action New Mexico	North Carolina Council of Imams
Illinois Campaign for Better Health Care	North Carolina Fair Share
Faith Caucus Interfaith Fellowship for Universal Health Care of Connecticut	Northwest Minnesota Pax Christi
Jubilee Justice Task Force of the United Church of Christ, Massachusetts	Ohio Council of Churches
Justice & Witness Commission of the Kansas/Oklahoma Conference of the United Church of Christ	OMNI Center for Peace, Justice & Ecology, Arkansas
Kentucky Council of Churches	Oregon-Idaho Methodist Federation for Social Action
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry, Colorado	Parish Nurse Ministries of New York, Inc.
Lutheran Advocacy, Illinois	Pax Christi Florida and Call to Action
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry, New Mexico	Pax Christi Northeast Florida
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Central Conference, United Church of Christ, Justice and Peace Ministries Team
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Oregon	Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy in Minnesota	Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church Advocacy Resource Team
	Presbytery of Baltimore, Maryland
	Protestants for the Common Good, Illinois

Coordinated by the Washington Interreligious Staff Community (WISC) Health Care Working Group and Faithful Reform in Health Care

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 Tildonk for Justice and Peace, New
 York
 Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
 Washington Association of Churches
 Washington State Unitarian Universalist
 Voices for Justice
 Western North Carolina Conference
 Methodist Federation for Social Action
 Wisconsin Council of Churches