



# HEALTH INSURANCE PROFITS Dangerous to America's Health

**Eight out of every 10 Americans want universal health care.**

**Poll after poll shows Americans believe good health care should be a basic human right.**

## **SO WHY DON'T WE HAVE IT?!**

Because there's BIG PROFITS to be made...from locking millions of Americans out of the health insurance system.

In this election year, health insurers have created America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) – the most well-financed PR and lobbying operation in the industry's history. AHIP has launched an unprecedented multi-million dollar PR campaign with lobbying staff in 46 states.

AHIP is a new organization, but it has an old game plan: to defeat the hopes of Americans across the country who are standing up and speaking out for universal health care. The health insurance industry has left a money trail behind it in states across the country where it has spared no expense to defeat citizens' initiatives.

**Follow the money trail** back to Massachusetts, where doctors and nurses and consumer groups fought to get universal health care on the state ballot in November, 2000. Supporters were outspent 1000 to 1 by frantic lobbyists for the insurance industry who unleashed a blitz of misleading TV ads that scared and confused voters. The measure lost by a single percentage point.

**Follow the money trail** back to Oregon, where thousands of good folks in labor, civic, seniors and other citizens groups around the state worked for years to shape and promote a statewide universal health care initiative.

As in Massachusetts, the initiative fell victim to a massive, fear-inducing TV and radio disinformation campaign in the final days before the vote. The scare campaign was financed by (you guessed it) the insurance industry.

**Follow the money trail** back to New Mexico, where local business, labor, physicians, and citizen activists, working over a 10-year period to refine a state universal healthcare plan that won leadership support in both houses of the state legislature. The legislation offered the people of New Mexico their first real and affordable chance to eliminate the state's chronic lack of health insurance for tens of thousands of families. In the last days of 2003 legislative session, the legislation was killed in committee by a frantic campaign of lies, distortions, and scare tactics executed by insurance industry lobbyists.

And while health insurance companies lobby to protect their profits, the cost of health insurance keeps rising. Millions more Americans lose their insurance. They grow sicker...and die younger.

The US is the only developed country in the world that does not offer health care coverage to all its citizens...and the health insurance industry plans to keep it that way.

## **AMERICA'S AGENDA: HEALTH CARE FOR ALL HAS A DIFFERENT PLAN.**

Like millions of Americans, we believe health care in America should be a right, not a special privilege.

Across the country, citizens and businesses are standing up for this right. Our mission is to provide these heroes with the critical tools they need to win. In state after state, universal health care advocates face an uphill battle against wealthy, health insurance interests. We intend to level the playing field.

Together, state by state, we will win victories and build momentum until universal health care becomes an irrepressible force across America. We need your help.

## **JOIN THE CAMPAIGN.**

YES! Enclosed is my check of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to  
*America's Agenda: Health Care for All.*

To pay by credit card:  Visa  MC  Discovery  Amex

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to pay *America's Agenda: Health Care for All* the stated amount.

Please send me more information on America's Agenda

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Working State by State to Win Health Care Coverage for All.

