



San Antonio Healthcare Now Coalition

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MLK Parade Provides Forum for Healthcare Equality

By Rachel Hollander

San Antonio Healthcare Now Coalition (SAHNC) continues its fight for equal rights to healthcare by marching in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 21st. In notably the largest annual MLK march in the United States, SAHNC members carried a bright orange banner with the MLK quote “Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane.” Chants for equal rights of many forms could be heard among the 100,000 person crowd. The march began at Martin Luther King Academy on the southeast side of San Antonio and ended at Pitman-Sullivan Park just near downtown.



SAHNC members Jane Cantu and Arthur Valdez march carrying signs and voicing chants advocating single-payer healthcare in the Martin Luther King march in San Antonio on Jan. 21, 2008.

Allied in the march with the National Nurses Organizing Committee (NNOC), SAHNC had an even larger voice for single-payer. Later in the afternoon at the NNOC office near the medical center on the north side of town, SAHNC conducted a healthcare forum to educate newcomers on single-payer and HR 676. After Rachel Hollander, co-chair of SAHNC, gave a brief introduction of the benefits of a single-payer healthcare, the audience watched a video of the congressional hearings on HR 676.



Rachel Hollander, 4th year medical student and co-chair of SAHNC, introduces HR 676 and says “as citizens we must demand equal rights in healthcare.”

Ray McMurrey, newly allied with SAHNC, but a strong and long-time advocate for single-payer, then spoke on his mission to be a bold advocate even in the face of adversity. He touched on the label “socialized medicine” and explained the private nature of healthcare delivery with public funding.

Mr. McMurrey's campaign events, blog, and stance on issues can be found at <http://mcmurreyforussenate.com>.



U.S. Senatorial Candidate Ray McMurrey speaks at the healthcare forum on the benefits of single-payer as described by HR 676.

don't understand the meaning of single-payer and what it provides. Of course, another goal is to educate organizations of private citizens to provide adequate understanding of HR 676. To view the details of single-payer for yourself, go to www.healthcarenowsa.org.

The healthcare forum on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday proved an appropriate addition to the march in honor of MLK's ideals. For many SAHNC members, this MLK march was their first to participate in. It was a unifying experience with a message that we can only hope carries on throughout the year. ■

Just getting the word out on single payer has been a major goal for SAHNC. Meeting with local legislators, SAHNC realizes that even public officials often

Myths About Single-Payer Healthcare

Myth #1: Single payer healthcare is socialized medicine.
Single-payer healthcare means that through taxes, the government funds our care. However, it is not socialized medicine because everyone has their choice of doctor and hospital whether it is in the private sector or not. Similarly existing is Medicare for those over 65 year old and Medicaid for those with low income or disability. You can see the huge gap in coverage among individuals and families that make too much for Medicaid but cannot afford the skyrocketing costs of private insurance provided by for-profit corporations.

Myth #2: Medicare and Medicaid are failing in the services they provide to patients and in the reimbursement they provide to doctors, so single-payer can never work.
The idea that Medicare funding by our current administration is failing has some merit. That is why single-payer demands improved and expanded coverage and reimbursement. The government exists to help its people and claiming that it does not do a good job at this cannot be an excuse!

Myth #3: Only a minority of people in the U.S. want single-payer healthcare.
In fact, polls continually show that when you explain the details of how single-payer works, over 50% of the American public want single-payer healthcare. Realistically and ethically, why wouldn't we want everyone to have access to care, especially when it is less expensive and more comprehensive?

Community Events Calendar

SAHNC Meetings

1st Thursday of Every Month; 6:30 pm at National Nurses Organizing Committee Office, 7959 Fredricksburg Rd. at Medical Dr. in Oakhills Shopping Center next to Vision Source
All are invited to become more involved or simply find out more about our group!

Host a SiCKO Showing

Contact us at SA.Information@HealthcareNowSA.org to find out how to get a free copy of SiCKO and create discussion about our healthcare inequalities and the single-payer solution.



"Unnatural Causes," PBS Documentary

March 27, 2008 at 10 pm
Tune in to PBS for the program on our nation's inequality in healthcare and health outcomes. Assured to be provocative and enlightening. Find out other ways to get directly involved at <http://www.unnaturalcauses.org/>

Precinct Conventions

March 4th, 2008
Democrats 7:15 pm, Republicans 7:30 pm
At polling places throughout the state
Introduce a resolution for single-payer healthcare at your democrat or republican precinct convention. Go to www.HealthcareNowSA.org to find out how!

SAHNC - Working Through the Political Process and How You Can Help on March 4th!

By Mark Camann

On March 4, Democrats and Republicans across Texas will gather in precinct conventions at their polling place to elect delegates and vote on important ideas. If you vote in the primary, you can help take us one step closer to achieving universal, single-payer healthcare by introducing our resolution at your precinct convention. To download our resolution and read more about how the precinct conventions work, please visit our website, www.healthcarenowsa.org

In January, the San Antonio Healthcare-Now Coalition met with Congressman Ciro Rodriguez at the Helotes Hills United Methodist Church. Coalition members spoke about personal healthcare stories, about the widespread support among voters for universal healthcare, and about how HR 676 would make American businesses more competitive in the global economy. Having recently met with a group of physicians who were opposed to universal healthcare, Congressman Rodriguez was reluctant to speak in favor of HR 676, and he expressed surprise when we told him that HR 676 is endorsed by Physicians for a National Health Program. The Congressman encouraged us to build more support throughout the community. Only after we change the political climate is Congress likely to bring HR 676 to a vote.

Also in January, the San Antonio Healthcare-Now Coalition met with State Senator Leticia Van de Putte, who expressed her unequivocal support for universal, single-payer healthcare. Senator Van de Putte was much more optimistic than Congressman Rodriguez, and predicted that universal, single-payer healthcare will soon be a reality throughout the country. ■



Joined by Diane Kilby and Rachel Hollander, Mark Camann discusses our resolution for HR 676 with Senator Leticia Van de Putte in her office.



Jane and Emilio Cantu discuss HR 676 with Congressman Ciro Rodriguez.