



HealthcareforAllColorado

Charles Darwin

If the misery of the poor be not by the laws of nature but by our institutions, great is our sin.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.

George Matafanov www.moralcompass.org

The adoption of free market economics globally is increasingly placing the market at the centre of society. As a result the influence it exerts on our lives extends far wider than market transactions often superseding family, community, church, society and even democratically elected governments. The market, for all intents and purposes, has become the Market.

Hubert H. Humphrey

"...the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; those who are in the shadows of life; the sick, the needy and the handicapped. "

Ann Neale and Jeff Tieman What would the Good Samaritan Do?

The times call for innovative Good Samaritans, who are ready to roll up their sleeves and call the American community to an examination of the values-disconnect between what we profess to stand for as a nation and the health-care reality we condone in practice. A critical mass of Americans must come together to engage the issue of healthcare policy at the fundamental level of values.

Margaret Mead

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Cowardice asks the question 'Is it safe?' Expediency asks the question 'Is it politic?' But conscience asks the question, 'Is it right?' And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular but because conscience tells one it is right

President Barack Obama July 22, 2009

I want to cover everybody. Now the truth is, unless you have a -- what's called a single payer system, in which everybody's automatically covered, then you're probably not going to reach every single individual....

David Mitchell Cloud Atlas

Scholars discern motions in history and formulate these motions into rules that govern the rises & falls of civilizations. My belief runs contrary, however. To wit: history admits no rules; only outcomes.

What precipitates outcomes? Vicious acts and Virtuous acts.
What precipitates acts? Belief

Why fight the "natural" order of things?

Why? Because of this; - one fine day, a purely predatory world *shall* consume itself. Yes, the Devil shall take the hindmost until the foremost is the hindmost. In an individual selfishness uglifies the soul; for the human species, selfishness is extinction.

Is this the doom written within our nature?

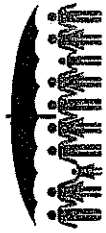
If we believe that humanity may transcend tooth and claw, if we believe divers races and creeds can share this world as peaceably as the orphans share their candlenut tree, if we believe leaders must be just, violence muzzled, power accountable and the riches of the Earth and its Oceans shared equitably, such a world will come to pass.

I am not deceived, it is the hardest of worlds to make real. Tortuous advances won over generation can be lost by a single stroke of a myopic president's pen or a vainglorious general's sword.

A life spent shaping a world I want (my child) to inherit, not one I fear (my child) shall inherit, this strikes me as a life worth the living.

...he who would do battle with the many headed hydra of Human Nature... will tell you that only as you gasp your dying breath shall you understand, your life amounted to no more than one drop in a limitless ocean.

Yet, what is any ocean but a multitude of drops?



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Lewin Analysis of Health Proposals for Colorado

	CHS/ Single Payer	Solutions for a Health CO	Better Health Care for CO	A Plan for Covering CO	Commission's 5 th Proposal
Author	HCAC	CO Assn of State Health Underwriters	SEIU	Committee for CO Health Solutions	208 Commission
Remaining Uninsured	None	138,000	487,000	108,600	106,600
Health Spending	(\$1,400 M)	\$271 M	\$595 M	\$1,289 M	\$861 M
Medicaid/CHP	Obsolete	Expand	Expand	Expand	Expand
Subsidies	Progressive Premium	250% FPL	300% FPL	400% FPL	400% FPL
Benefit Floor	Comprehensive	Less than current law	Basic	Comprehensive	Basic
Benefit Cap	None	\$35,000	\$35,000	None	\$50,000
Mandates	Individual Employer	Individual	None	Individual Employer	Individual



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Policy on National Health Care Reform

President Barack Obama July 22, 2009

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"HCAC supports single payer health care because it is the only solution that provides health care for everyone and contains costs while improving quality. HCAC remains open to a robust public option on a national level and supports the right of states to pursue their own innovative health reform plans."

The first statement is based on undeniable facts - the Lewin Analysis done for the 208 Commission demonstrated that only the Colorado Health Services Plan would provide comprehensive health coverage to everyone in Colorado and decrease overall spending.

The second statement recognizes that it is unlikely that National legislation enacting comprehensive health care reform utilizing single payer financing will be passed in 2009-2010. At the same time, people are suffering now due to their inability to access health care. We support efforts that will immediately decrease pain and suffering.

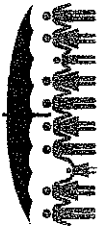
In addition, HCAC recognizes that passage of comprehensive legislation at a national level may be accompanied by passage of legislation that allows state based innovation in health care.

Congressman Kucinich has submitted an amendment to HR 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009, which states that a state may operate a "single payer system". This amendment has bipartisan support. Passage of HR 3200 with this amendment would allow Colorado to enact comprehensive health care reform utilizing single payer financing!

So please involve yourselves in the national debate. Email, write, call or visit with our Congressional delegates. Urge them to support HR 3200 and the Kucinich Amendment, so that Colorado can create its own wonderful health system – a uniquely Colorado solution!

Martin Luther King, Jr.

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But conscience asks the question, 'Is it right?' And there comes a time
when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular
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Statistics on Income and Insurance and Race and Ethnicity

Why Not the Best? Results from a National Scorecard on

U.S. Health System Performance, 2008.

The Commonwealth Fund

	Total	NHWhite	Black	Asian	Hispanic	Native	Immigrant
Median Income	\$50,233	\$54,920	\$33,916	\$66,103	\$38,679	\$50,946	\$37,637
Living in Poverty	12.5%	8.2%	24.5%	10.2%	21.5%	11.9%	16.5%
No health Insurance	15.3%	10.4%	19.5%	16.8%	32.1%	12.7%	33.2%
Infant Mortality Rate		5.7	13.6	4.7	5.5		
Cancer Survival		M 55% F 58%	M 46% F 47%	M 50% F 61%	M 53% F 57%		
Heart Disease Mortality (per 100,000)	160	159	207		127		
Diabetes Mortality (per 100,000)	76	68	135		90		
Untreated Cavities	23%	19%	28%		31%		
Poor Blood Pressure Control	64%	63%	66%		71%		
Long Wait for Healthcare	20%	16%	36%		28%		

Key Features of Single-Payer

- **Universal, Comprehensive Coverage**
Only such coverage ensures access, avoids a two-class system, and minimizes expense
- **No out-of-pocket payments**
Co-payments and deductibles are barriers to access, administratively unwieldy, and unnecessary for cost containment
- **A single insurance plan in each region, administered by a public or quasi-public agency**
A fragmentary payment system that entrusts private firms with administration ensures the waste of billions of dollars on useless paper pushing and profits. Private insurance duplicating public coverage fosters two-class care and drives up costs; such duplication should be prohibited

- **Global operating budgets for hospitals, nursing homes, allowed group and staff model HMOs and other providers with separate allocation of capital funds**
Billing on a per-patient basis creates unnecessary administrative complexity and expense. A budget separate from operating expenses will be allowed for capital improvements

- **Free Choice of Providers**
Patients should be free to seek care from any licensed health care provider, without financial incentives or penalties

- **Public Accountability, Not Corporate Dictates**
The public has an absolute right to democratically set overall health policies and priorities, but medical decisions must be made by patients and providers rather than dictated from afar. Market mechanisms principally empower employers and insurance bureaucrats pursuing narrow financial interests

- **Ban on For-Profit Health Care Providers**
Profit seeking inevitably distorts care and diverts resources from patients to investors

- **Protection of the rights of health care and insurance workers**
A single-payer national health program would eliminate the jobs of hundreds of thousands of people who currently perform billing, advertising, eligibility determination, and other superfluous tasks. These workers must be guaranteed retraining and placement in meaningful jobs.

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HEALTH CARE FOR ALL COLORADO
<http://www.healthcareforallcolorado.org/>

Healthcare-NOW!
<http://www.healthcare-now.org/>

Physicians for a National Health Program
<http://www.pnhp.org/>