



THE EAGLE

LOCAL 1103

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Don't Believe the Hype: The majority of American's support Healthcare Reform



CWA Local 1103 Members Continue to Mobilize and Fight for National Healthcare Reform

National Healthcare Reform is in real jeopardy, threatened to become another sound social ideal discarded like trash. Irresponsible mischaracterizations and boisterous politically motivated name calling have moved legitimate discourse, where sincere difference of opinions and points of view are expressed, into a national Jerry Springer show. The complexity of Health Care Reform is only one reason that sound bites on cable news zoo television have taken hold, but it is the entrenchment of money and influence in Washington D.C. that is proving to be the formidable opponent. Corporate America's pigs will not leave the trough voluntarily.

The insurance industry does not want national healthcare reform because it will cut into profits. For them, it is cheaper to spend millions and millions of dollars on misleading ad campaigns to preserve their profits long term. It really is that simple. Insurance companies do not care about your health; they care about ways to maximize profits and limit their exposure for your medical procedures. That is why women who deliver babies are forced out of hospitals before they are truly ready to go home, and why families go into bankruptcy fighting for approval of cancer treatments and operations needed to save lives even when a patient's doctor

continued on page 3

**Healthcare
Reform!**



..... pg. 1 & 3

CWA
members
speak out!....pg. 4 & 5



Questions on
Health Care

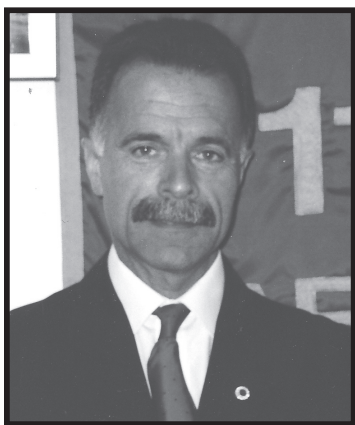


..... pg. 6

Letters
to the
Editor. pg. 7



In My View . . .




When you attend our September General Membership Meeting on the 29th you will hear me make reference to the C.W.A. Triangle. Our Union's foundation is built on all three sides of the Triangle. One for Organizing, the next is Representation, and third side, Political. Each side is as important as the other. Currently we are in the process of endorsing good Men and Women who are seeking Public Office who have an established track record of advocating on your behalf, or have committed to do so. This is true whether we are talking about Federal, State, County or Local Elections, in the state of Connecticut or New York as a Municipal, Hospital, or Telephone Worker. It's important to realize that the benefits you enjoy today that have taken years of sacrifice to attain can be wiped out with the stroke of a pen from new Legislation. This is why we stay very much Politically involved and only give our endorsements to those who will step up for us when the need arises. There are times we have asked you to work on behalf of a Political Campaign and

you have responded. There are many elected officials on our side, but there are just as many out there working against us and our way of life. Our mission must be to keep the balance of power on our side.

In Solidarity,

Joseph A. Barca, Jr.
President



THE EAGLE

Proud To Be 1103

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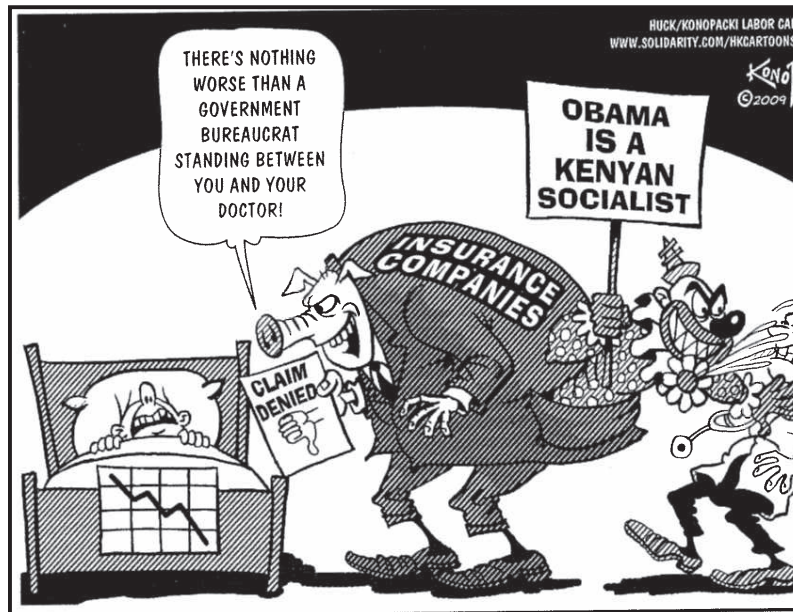
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Healthcare Reform . . . continued from front cover

orders them. It is why medical decisions are not made between patients and doctors; they are made in consultation and with input from a third stakeholder, the insurance company. Is there anything more offensive or intrusive than an insurance company's involvement with medical decisions pertaining to one's health? To continue maximizing profits, insurance companies need things to remain as they are, so they resort to scare tactics and lies to fight healthcare reform. Meanwhile their allies on the right, interested in allowing the insurance industry's stranglehold on American families to continue, support and enable the anti-healthcare reform agenda by carrying Obama posters with images of him as Hitler or scream about "death panels" or obnoxiously attempt to bully anyone who disagrees. They argue that an overhaul of the health care insurance system with a public option is akin to socialism or that the government is so incompetent at managing anything, how could anyone possibly want the government running national health care? Conveniently leaving out the fact that the government already manages Medicare, Medicaid, Veteran Affairs, and Social Security; programs that an overwhelming majority of Americans support and pos-

sibly rely on everyday. Maybe the government should get out of that business too. In addition to the scare tactics, the insurance industry's argument presents a false choice because they cannot have it both ways, they cannot argue that the government is so inept at running anything and everything that they could not possibly run health care and also that a public option would put private insurers out of business due to the competitive advantages of a

they want the government out of all affairs. But we really don't. Deep down, people know there is a proper role for government and modest regulation. We want our military as an armed service branch of government. We want our police and firefighters to remain government employees, state or local. We want our highways and bridges maintained. We want our food and water supply protected from poisons and disease. We complain and joke about our US Postal Service, but nothing in the private sector really compares to its efficiency or reliability. We want Wall Street regulated, we want telecom regulated, we want agriculture regulated, and we want the airlines regulated. It is not a question of big government or small government; it is a question of smart government. There is a role government can play in national



federally financed government option. If the government is so incompetent, they have nothing to fear.

After eight years of incompetence it is true that there are many who believe that government is inept, however, the government is only as incompetent as the people elected to run it. It becomes a self-fulfilling prophesy, those who want no government regulation of any sort, like Bush and his CEO cronies, say all government is bad and it should let capitalism be, unimpeded, then they go out and prove how incompetent it could be and people start to think

healthcare reform, a government public option is the leverage needed to bring balance to the spiraling out of control health-care costs debilitating too many American families. Despite the insurance industry's objection, our society has an obligation to the least among us. It is time to reject the fear factor, stand up to the noise, and set the record straight. It is time for real Healthcare Reform. It is time for a public health insurance option.

Kevin Sheil
Vice President

WHAT'S IN HEALTH CARE REFORM FOR ME?

CWA Separates Truth from Lies

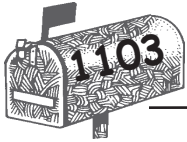
There is an organized movement to spread lies and distortions about health care reform legislation (H.R. 3200) pending in the U.S. House of Representatives, which is endorsed by President Obama and CWA. The insurance industry and other special interests are trying to derail this bill by making false and misleading claims about it. Don't be fooled by their propaganda. Here are some common questions and answers:

Will the bill take away my employer health plan?	NO. CWA members will keep their negotiated health plans. CWA will negotiate benefits as we always have. Insurance companies will have to provide a comprehensive standard benefits package for all policies, which could actually improve the benefits offered by some CWA plans.
Will the bill reduce health care costs for CWA members?	YES. It will save billions of dollars for our employers. That means more money at bargaining for wage increases or benefits. It requires most employers (not small businesses) to pay for health care, which levels the playing field between union employers and irresponsible employers.
Will the bill benefit retirees?	YES. The bill expands protections for retirees. Responsible employers who provide retiree care to people 55 to 64 will get a subsidy to protect pre-Medicare retiree benefits.
Will I lose my choice of doctor?	NO. Your choices will remain the same. CWA negotiated health plans will not change except through bargaining. If a family member or friend is uninsured they will get covered and have more affordable choices.
Will the bill stop insurance company abuses?	YES. Insurance companies will be better regulated. They will no longer be able to deny you coverage up front, refuse to cover a preexisting condition or charge you more because of your occupation, health condition or gender. Insurance companies will have to compete against a public health insurance plan for people under 65 that will be similar to Medicare, which Americans can join if they want. More competition for insurance companies means lower costs and better quality for all of us.
Will the bill result in a government takeover of health care?	NO. Most Americans will keep their current employer plan. Companies with 20 or fewer employees will be able to choose between a private plan and the public health insurance plan. Government programs already provide nearly 30% of health care coverage in America, through Medicare, Medicaid, the VA and state programs.
Will I get taxed to pay for other people's health care?	NO – Unless our opponents win. H.R. 3200, taxes the very rich – just the top 1% of tax filers. It also cuts subsidies to insurance companies, negotiates better prices with drug companies, and requires hospitals to operate more efficiently.

Call Your Congressional Representative NOW at 1-888-580-0792

Tell them to support H.R. 3200

This is a once in a generation opportunity for us



LETTERS TO THE LOCAL

Kevin,

Thanks for sharing this version of the video. It is amazing that it is 20 years and the fight goes on for health care and for the union.

In solidarity,
Larry (Cohen)
(President CWA)

To Our Brothers and Sisters of CWA Local 1103,

Our hearts are with you today and always, but especially on this solemn anniversary.

At our garages across 1126 today we pay honor and tribute to Gerry and will again this afternoon. Above all, the theme was to remember not just what he now stands for but who Gerry was as an individual, friend and brother to you all.

Nothing will ever soften the sting of your loss but know that throughout our Local Your Brother is Never Forgotten.

In Unity,
Michael S. Garry
President CWA Local 1126

DRIVE UNION

A guide to 2009 cars, trucks, SUVs and vans made by union members

UAW cars

Buick Lucerne
Cadillac CTS
Cadillac DTS
Cadillac STS
Cadillac XLR
Chevrolet Cobalt
Chevrolet Corvette
Chevrolet Malibu/Hybrid
Chrysler Sebring Convertible
Chrysler Sebring Sedan
Dodge Avenger
Dodge Caliber
Dodge Viper
Ford Focus
Ford Mustang
Ford Taurus
Lincoln MKS
Mazda6
Mercury Sable
Mitsubishi Eclipse
Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder
Mitsubishi Galant
Pontiac G5
Pontiac G6
Pontiac Solstice
Pontiac Vibe
Saturn Aura/Hybrid
Saturn Sky
Toyota Corolla*

UAW vans

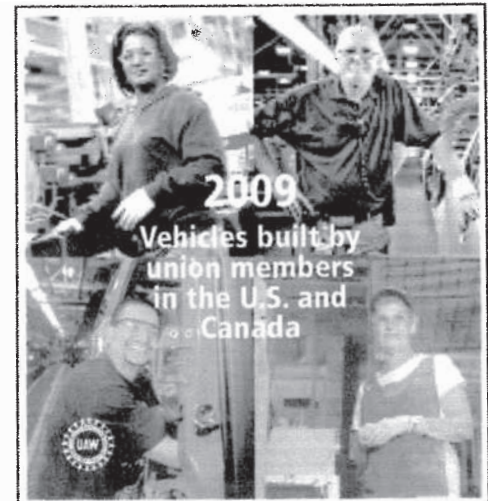
Chevrolet Express
Dodge Caravan
Ford Econoline
GMC Savana

UAW SUVs/CUVs

Buick Enclave
Cadillac Escalade/Hybrid
Cadillac Escalade ESV
Cadillac SRX
Chevrolet Suburban*
Chevrolet Tahoe*/Hybrid
Chevrolet Traverse
Chrysler Aspen/Hybrid
Dodge Durango/Hybrid
Dodge Nitro
Ford Escape/Hybrid
Ford Expedition
Ford Explorer
Ford Explorer Sport Trac
Ford Taurus X
GMC Acadia
GMC Yukon*/Hybrid
H2 Hummer
H3 Hummer
Jeep Commander
Jeep Compass
Jeep Grand Cherokee
Jeep Liberty
Jeep Patriot
Jeep Wrangler
Lincoln Navigator
Mazda Tribute/Hybrid
Mercury Mariner/Hybrid
Mercury Mountaineer
Mitsubishi Endeavor
Saturn Outlook

CAW trucks

Chevrolet Silverado*/Hybrid
GMC Sierra*/Hybrid



CAW cars

Buick Lacrosse
Chevrolet Camaro
Chevrolet Impala
Chrysler 300
Dodge Challenger
Dodge Charger
Ford Crown Victoria
Lincoln Town Car
Mercury Grand Marquis

CAW vans

Chrysler Town & Country
Dodge Caravan
Volkswagen Routan

CAW SUVs/CUVs

Chevrolet Equinox
Ford Edge
Ford Flex
Lincoln MKT
Lincoln MKX
Pontiac Torrent
Suzuki XL7

IUE SUVs/CUVs

Chevrolet Trailblazer
GMC Envoy

UAW trucks

Chevrolet Colorado
Chevrolet Silverado*
Dodge Dakota
Dodge Ram Pickup
Ford F Series*
Ford Ranger
GMC Canyon
GMC Sierra*
Mazda B-Series
Toyota Tacoma*

**Have a Drug,
Alcohol or
Gambling Problem ?**

**Call
Headquarters
939-8203 or 8204**

**Ask to be put in
contact with
Tom O'Halloran**


**All Information
is Confidential**



COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA - LOCAL 1103

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PERIODICAL



**Join New York's Working Families
for the 2009**

Labor Day Parade



**Saturday, Septmeber 12, 2009
10:00 AM**

5th Avenue & 44th Street

* * *

**Call the Union Hall for Details
914-939-8203**