



Missourians for Single Payer Health Care

438 N. Skinker Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63130 ~ Ph: 314.862.5735 ~ www.mosp.us

MISSOURIANS FOR SINGLE PAYER

11TH ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION, AND LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, November 4, 2006

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn, Airport/Oakland Park, St. Louis, MO 63134

4505 Woodson Road

314-427-4700

“St. Louis Room” – Downstairs

**HEALTH CARE 2006:
BEG, BORROW OR STEAL?**

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Julia E. Lamborn Gettinger

The time has come for all good men (and women) to come to the aid of their country. That may be paraphrased, but I'm sure you get the idea. Last March when Jim Hightower was our special guest speaker for the 2006 Health Care events, he said that activists had been playing nice for long enough and it is now time to agitate. I agree. Big money, special interests and politicians have been making health care decisions for us for too long.

If you counted all our lawmakers, state and federal, the number would be a tiny percentage in comparison to the millions of people that they represent. This small group keeps for-profit health care alive in America. Until we have non-profit single payer health care for all we will all be held hostage for our health care.

I say now is the time to SPEAK UP, SPEAK OUT, TALK BACK, DON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER, and DEMAND SINGLE PAYER NOW!!!! Missourians for Single Payer continues to work for a state program as well as supports HR676, the National "Expanded and Improved Medicare for All" bill. See the Legislation Report on page 6 for more information.

Please register and attend our 11th Annual Meeting scheduled for November 4 (the registration form is on page 5). Help us make plans for 2007. I hope to see you on November 4.

A Few Words From Lindy

As many of you know, I am still busily working on completing my Phd. An important part of this completion is my work with MoSP. I recently spent 5 days in Montreal, where I organized a session on new scholar activism for the annual conference of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. My work with MoSP is a continuing conversation with the people I meet at the regional and national conferences that I attend. If you would like to read any of the papers I have written about MoSP, please feel free to contact me. These papers are still in the transition stage between conference papers and published articles. I am currently beginning the exiting work of going through some of the many historical MoSP materials that Mary Jane Schutzius, Lee Kramer, and Julia Lamborn provided me with some time ago. If you have any historical documents (i.e. meeting minutes, MoSP newsletters) from before 1999 and are willing to share them, please contact me. Just when I think I have MoSP figured out, I learn more! I look forward to learning and doing much more as we start the new MoSP activity year and hope to see many of you at the meetings!!

Lindy Hern, University of Missouri – Columbia
lsh8r4@mizzou.edu



Agitatin' Jim Hightower

An Army of Volunteers, Loyal Small Donors Will Protect Him from Lobbyists, Jeff Smith Says

“I’m proud that so many volunteers and countless small donations made it possible that I don’t have to listen to lobbyists,” said Missouri State Senator-Elect Jeff Smith at Missourians for Single Payer’s opening lecture Sept. 21 at the University City Library.

Smith will represent St. Louis City’s large 4th District, which stretches from north to south St. Louis City. He won over four other Democrats in the primary campaign, and is unopposed in the Nov. 7 general election.

Smith’s a longtime backer of single-payer healthcare. His pound-the-pavement campaign was a novelty in an age of endless TV ads and endorsements. He made hundreds of home visits and personal phone calls to voters who had rarely seen or heard from a candidate in person.

Adding hundreds of door-to-door trips by eager college students and other volunteers creates bonds with voters, Smith said.

“All grassroots voters want is to see you face-to-face for 60 seconds and hear in plain words what you stand for,” he said. Avoiding slogans (e.g. “no child left behind”), he stressed universal healthcare; increasing the minimum wage and giving public schools more teachers and enriched curriculums.

He gave his cell phone number to residents who doubted they’d hear from him again; his young volunteers helped clear debris after the big storm.

Among voters he won’t forget:

◆ An 80-year-old widow from the North Side who phoned him the day after his visit to her. “Well, hello...I just wanted to see if you were telling the truth!” she said, when he answered her call.

◆ Another elderly woman from Webster Groves who sent him \$5 each month for his campaign. Smith’s

thank-you notes prompted her to mail him three stamps, with a note: “Don’t waste your money!”

“Those are the people I’m going to listen to when I’m in office,” Smith said.

After visits with many Missouri residents without health insurance, he said: “I feel that I know what reality is for many of us. I’ve been without health insurance, too. And I’ve waited in a crowded clinic with a serious hand injury before I was treated.”

Smith wants other legislators “to see for themselves all the citizens who wait in pain in our jammed ERs and clinics. “If we took the trouble to do this, we’d all fight hard for single payer health care in Missouri.”

A political science adjunct professor at Washington University, Smith also taught government and public policy at Dartmouth College and the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He lost his 2004 race for United States Congress to U.S. Rep. Russ Carnahan; the vote was close because Smith won both St. Louis and St. Louis County.

The 2004 campaign by Smith is the focus of the documentary, *Can Mr. Smith Get to Washington Anymore?* It was featured for many weeks at the Tivoli Theater in University City, and is currently playing in Washington, DC and Atlanta.

Roger W. Signor

MoSP newsletter staff

Editor-in-Chief, Julia

Lamborn Gettinger

Mailing Committee, Mary

Jane & Bob Schutzzius

Layout editor, Anne Bader

Webmaster, Pat Singley

MoSP 2006 Annual Meeting Agenda – November 4

- 11:00 a.m. Sign-in, Greetings, Housekeeping
- 11:30 a.m. Business Meeting, Treasurer's Report, Legislation Report, Program Report, Annual Report, Election
- Election of Officers and Individual Board Members.
Voting restricted to members in good standing.
- Nominees are: Officers (term 2 years)
- President: Julia Lamborn Gettinger
Vice President: Mimi Signor
Secretary: Jim Clark
Treasurer: Mary Jane Schutzius
- Individual Member: Esther Clark
- Nominations will be taken from the floor with the consent of the nominee.
Board members serve a 2 year term. Board members shall attend quarterly meetings of the Board of Directors, be MoSP members in good standing, and will be expected to serve on committees. Next Board meeting: January 2007.
Date, time and place to be determined.
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. **Health Care 2006: Beg, Borrow or Steal?**
- 2:00 p.m. Adjourn

REGISTRATION

MoSP's 11th ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, November 4, 2006

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn, Airport/Oakland Park

St. Louis Room-Downstairs

4505 Woodson Road

St. Louis, MO 63134

314-427-4700

Registration includes lunch. Please indicate luncheon choice on form.

Registration fee is **\$25.00 per person. REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 30.**

Make checks payable to: MoSP and mail with registration form to: MoSP, 438 N. Skinker Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63130

clip and send to MoSP- 438 N. Skinker Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63130

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

PHONE: _____ **FAX:** _____

EMAIL: _____

LUNCHEON CHOICE: (Choose one per registrant)

Chicken Piccata: Chicken sauteed in White wine & Lemon Butter Caper Sauce.

Served with Oven-Roasted Potatoes and Vegetable du Jour. _____

Broiled Salmon: Salmon served with Pernod Sauce.

Also served with Rice Pilaf and Vegetable du Jour. _____

Vegetarian Plate: Steamed vegetables and baked potato. _____

Lunch will include Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, or Iced Tea.

Served with House Salad, Hot Dinner Roll & Butter, and Dessert.

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____, payable to MoSP.

Please register _____ person(s).

Congressman Conyer's bill, **HR 676**, "Expanded and Improved Medicare for All" has 77 congressional cosponsors. 191 union organizations, including 44 Central Labor Councils and Area Labor Federations and 11 state AFL-CIOs (KY, PA, CT, OH, DE, ND, WA, SC, WY, VT & FL) have endorsed **HR 676**.

On June 7 (6/7/6) MOSP launched our statewide **City-by-City Campaign** to endorse national universal single payer health care and urge our elected officials to pass it. The foundation of the **City-by-City Campaign** is the Democratic process, ordinary citizens building working relationships with their elected representatives. MOSP congratulates MOSP members who have met with their city council members over the summer: Janet Noble and Teri Williams in Webster Groves, Elsa Mutrux in Clayton, Anne Bader in Frontenac, Arlene Nickels and Robert Recht in Creve Coeur, and Martha Scheer in Kirkwood. An outline of how the city campaign works can be found at www.healthcare-now.org under the tab, "take action" and "how to draft a resolution".

After the November elections, MOSP members will be working in St. Louis County for a County Resolution to endorse **HR 676**. Two counties which have endorsed **HR 676** with a resolution are Lorain County, Ohio and Warren County, Tennessee.

MOSP has joined with Healthcare Now to "**Elect a Healthy Congress**". Our new buttons read "**Health Care Voter**". Wear the buttons, start or continue the dialogue, and work for single payer health care for all citizens. 2006 is an election year remarkable in the large number of single payer candidates running for office. Thank them for working in behalf of health care for all, and join their campaign teams to help elect a healthy congress and a healthy state legislature.

—Mimi Signor, RN



Letters to the Editor

Rated D-minus: Advantra Health Insurance Plan 'D'

I was going out of town. One of my pre-criptions needed a refill to last me throughout my absence. I called the pharmacy and was told that Advantra wouldn't allow a refill in advance. I had been with Advantra about 15 years and they had never refused refills before. I paid the full price since I MUST take the medication every morning. It was not expensive, only \$11.83 out of which I normally would pay \$5.00 copay. The price is not important.

What is important is the matter of principle: Health Insurance plan D to be available to the participants. I have been a premium paying member of this insurance plan. The Caremark, a company I have not dealt with, sent me a check for 83 cents. The difference between what I paid and what I

should have paid (copay) was \$5.83. I spent over an hour talking on the phone to five persons, including two supervisors, to rectify this. A brick wall! 83 cents? I say STUFF IT!

Respectfully,
Marylou Ruhe
Clayton

Dangerous to your health

Health insurance companies are dangerous to your health. Profit-driven, they are the main cause of reduced and restricted benefits, spiraling costs and the reduced ability of businesses to provide inexpensive health insurance to employees and retirees. The insurance companies have colluded with Congress to block every effort for a national health plan covering all

Americans.

The latest plan, HR 676, would expand an improved Medicare to all Americans, offering better benefits at a much lower cost. The bill eliminates the unnecessary, costly insurance company middleman. It's not socialism, government control or big bureaucracy, but it is terrible to the multi-million-dollar-salaried insurance company executives who would lose their jobs. The main opponents are the health insurers and the congressman who work with them to preserve the present, disastrous

system.

We must elect congressmen who support HR 676, whether they are Republicans or Democrats. Business groups, with their great power and muscle, working with the many citizen groups working for this law, can get the necessary support in Congress to make this happen. We must solve this American dilemma.

Robert Recht

Creve Coeur
(published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch,
September 15, 2006)



MoSP invites you to become a member. See membership form on the next page.

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Membership Form

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Phone: 314-862-5735

www.mosp.us

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Categories

_____ Individual, \$20 I will contribute \$ _____ towards _____

_____ Family, \$30 _____

(specific programming and expenses)

_____ Organization, \$50

_____ Other \$ _____

_____ I'm unable to pay dues at this time, but I will support and promote MoSP among relatives, friends, colleagues, acquaintances, however I can. Please continue to send me the newsletter. Please call on me for volunteer help.