



Missourians for Single Payer Health Care

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

President's message: States Lead Single Payer Movement

Single payer is the social and civil rights movement of our time. We need a single payer national health program, yet individual states are moving forward with state bills. Our nation's great social movements, the abolition of slavery and women's suffrage, led by the efforts of ordinary citizens, began in the states. Once one state passes a single payer program into law, Missouri and other states will be emboldened.

Recently a Colorado ballot initiative on single payer, Amendment 69, was rejected by voters. Opponents assailed the tax increases, while voters were not well informed about the overall net savings and benefits. It is imperative for advocates to be forthright regarding both the costs and the savings of a single payer program.

Here in the Show Me state, we must show the crippling burden of what we pay now, while remaining transparent and honest regarding the tax. Economic discussions need to include side-by-side cost comparisons.

Ordinary citizens are catalysts for great social change. Honest communication is the path. A single payer program is the most fiscally conservative way to expand health care to everyone, to improve health, and save lives. Your health care stories will create change. Tell your stories.

--Mimi Signor, RN, President

Found on the sidewalk: How to avoid criticism



MoSP Fall Calendar

6:30 pm, Hanke Room,
Ethical Society of St. Louis
9001 Clayton Road

September 14: Dr. Mark Krasnoff

October 19: Dr. John Morley

November 16: "Educate, Advocate, Agitate," MoSP annual member planning meeting for 2018 programs and activities.

December: No programs till January. Happy, Healthy New Year!

MoSP newsletter staff

Editor-in-Chief,
Mimi Signor

Mailing Committee, Mary
Jane & Bob Schutzius

Layout editor, Anne Bader
~ Webmaster, Don Ford

www.mosp.us

MoSP Mid-Missouri in Action

MoSP in Columbia has had a busy summer! In collaboration with PNHP, League of Women Voters, the MU Center for Health Policy, and the Missouri Rural Crisis Center, we had two screenings of the film, *Fix It*, at the Daniel Boone Regional Library, followed by a panel presentation and discussion with the audience. We also partnered with PNHP, the MU Center for Health Policy, and Faith Voices to show the film, *Big Pharma: Market Failure* at Lenoir Woods Retirement Center in Columbia, at the California Nutrition Center in California, MO, and at the Southern Boone County Library in Ashland, MO. A big thanks to Dr. Ed Weisbart who was a panelist at all of our screenings. Ed also held two training sessions for our group about presenting on the topic of Medicare for All.

We attended the *Surviving Healthcare Reform* forum in Jefferson City. Speakers at that forum included Ed Weis-



Seniors watching "Big Pharma" in California, MO

bart of PNHP, Ryan Barker of Missouri Foundation for Health, and Jay Angoff, Director of the HHS Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, and a panel of local health care providers. A lively discussion on the feasibility of Medicare for All was held by the panelists, with Ed Weisbart presenting data supporting it as the logical choice moving forward.

In the fall we will take *Big Pharma* to more communities in mid-Missouri including Mexico, Fayette, and Sedalia. The rising costs of prescription drugs are of great concern in rural Missouri. We look forward to continuing our discussions there.

Our group had a delicious and relaxing potluck dinner on July 18 at the home of Dr. Jan Swaney, followed by the second speaker training from Ed Weisbart. We celebrated the birthday of Dr. Sue Pereira, who was a speaker at our California, MO screening. People drove in from Kirksville, MO to attend the potluck/training. We look forward to expanding our group. Anyone interested in joining our efforts should contact Margie Sable at Margie.Sable@gmail.com. Now is the time to work for Medicare for all.

---Margie Sable, DPH



Dr. Ed Weisbart, entertaining the seniors at the California Nutrition Center

State Voter ID's



State Reps Joe Adams & Stacey Newman

With the new budget for the State of Missouri that went into effect July 1st Missouri joined several states enacting Voter ID. Voter ID is an issue that has been debated in state legislature and state and Federal courts for

several years. Proponents claim voter fraud is rampant in American voting, although there is no proof. Voter ID is said to stop voter impersonation. Are there examples of widespread voter impersonation in America? According to all credible sources, it is a tiny percentage, and would not affect national elections.

You need ID in the United States for air travel. Many people do not travel by airplane. Many do not have bank accounts or other business transactions requiring that kind of ID. Missouri Secretary of State and the Department of Revenue will pay for the documents Missourians need to prove who they are, but cannot afford them, so they can get the ID for voting only. The ID that the state would provide to those that could not afford the voter ID would not work for anything except voting. Missouri Voter ID's do not conform to Federal Requirements for a "Real ID". Missouri just approved going to the federal standards for Real ID on driver's licenses that will allow Missourians to fly on commercial planes and to have access to federal facilities.

What does all of this mean? Missouri Voter IDs will remove people from the voters' rolls who are suspected to be unreliable voters for the party or group in control. It is reminiscent of the post-Reconstruction era in the South after the Civil War. During that time, the purpose was to remove former slaves and untrustworthy whites from the voter rolls. They would allow some of them to vote but their votes did not count.

---State Representative Joe Adams

Missouri Paper Ballot Bill Update

HB 717, this year's Missouri House bill to outlaw electronic voting machines (often called "the paper ballot bill"), passed through two House committees and was sent to the House "Perfection Calendar," where it remained for many weeks without being brought up for discussion by the full House. Bills brought to the floor are completely at the discretion of the Majority Floor Leader. This past session there were many other bills that the Leader deemed more of a priority.

The Missouri Coalition for Transparent and Secure Elections is asking that Missouri voters call their legislators in both houses RIGHT NOW to urge them to work to pass this important legislation in the 2018 session, which begins in January. Calls to both House and Senate leadership in both parties would also be helpful. (We will not have updated bill numbers until the beginning of the session.) Bill priorities are determined by the leadership long before the session begins, so we need to get this bill on the radar now. Legislator contact information and leadership rosters can be found at www.house.mo.gov and www.senate.mo.gov. Representative Paul Curtman, who has carried the bill on the House side for the past several years, believes that this year it can finally be passed. The Coalition is currently talking with Senators to see who will carry the bill in the Senate.

---Cynthia Richards, Ph. D., Co-Director, Missouri's Coalition for Transparent and Secure Elections



Cynthia Richards

Our Revolution - St. Joseph

The St. Joseph chapter of Our Revolution was co-founded by me and Andrea Cole in August 2016. Our Revolution is a national organization lead by surrogates of the Bernie Sanders campaign. Its aim is to get citizens involved in the political process by working to support progressive candidates and policies like free public college tuition, a \$15 minimum wage and, of course, single payer health care. We were actively involved with the Sanders campaign during the 2016 primary in Missouri and were ultimately elected to be delegates at the 2016 Democratic National convention. The Our Revolution organization kicked off shortly after the convention. We started our chapter for those in the St. Joseph/NW Missouri area.

The organization mobilized when Donald Trump passed the ban on immigrants from Muslim countries in January. In the span of three days, we held a solidarity rally with 200 chanting, sign-waving supporters, followed by an “empty-chair” town hall for US Representative Sam Graves, an Earth Day March For Science, and a “die-in” in front of the Buchanan County courthouse where Sam Graves’ (usually empty) office sits.

Our Revolution-St. Joseph’s recent efforts have been gathering signatures for the petition referendum for



Derek Evans & Andrea Cole

so-called “Right to Work” and for a number of other petition initiatives, including the Clean Missouri initiative (electoral reform), the medical cannabis initiative, and a number of initiatives sponsored by the organization Government by the People www.governmentbythepeople.org. Because of the looming deadline, the “Right to Work” repeal is top priority, as are volunteer efforts and phone banking for Michela Skelton, candidate for Missouri’s 50th House district, who is endorsed by the national Our Revolution organization. We show regular public documentaries, one on campaign finance in July and the *Fix It* documentary on single payer in August. We are gearing up for the upcoming political season by developing a platform for local issues (including support for municipal recycling and updating St. Joseph’s code of ordinances to provide protections for LGBTQ individuals) and working on an endorsement process for candidates and initiatives at every level of government.

You can follow Our Revolution on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ourrevstjoe or sign up for the mailing list by visiting www.ourrevstjoe.org.

*---Derek Evans, Co-Founder,
Our Revolution - St. Joseph*



Signature gathering

MoSP Kansas City & Independence Join Medicare for All Rally



Terry Flowers

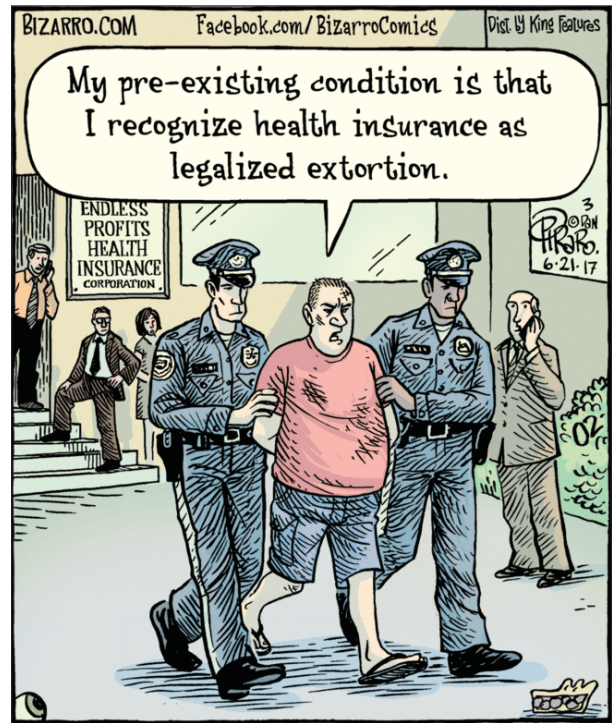
On July 23 JoCo MoveOn, March Forward KC, Medicare for All, Missouri Health Care for All, Missourians for Single Payer Health Care, and National Nurses United joined together in support of the *Millions March for Medicare for All* event that was held in Washington, DC on the next day. The rally/march was held at Unity

Temple on the Plaza. Lori Slettehaugh of March Forward KC led the event and did a marvelous job.

After viewing videos, *Canada's Healthcare System Explained! Healthcare Triage and Medicare for All: We Must Change How We Finance Healthcare* (featuring Dr. Ed Weisbart) and speeches in the Temple by Pam Darpel (National Nurses United), Becca Peck (Healthcare Advocate) and George Kinnard (social worker) the 200 attendees moved out onto the streets and marched along some of the Plaza streets.

It was determined that the rally/march was an outstanding success. Many thanks to the event committee that provided leadership, including Lori Slettehaugh, Judy Snyder, Melody Jerden, Kimberly Martin, Anne Muccino, Al Frisby, Terry Flowers, Meredith Deck and Kathy Kircher.

---Terry Flowers, RPh



Quotes

“I find that the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving.”

---Oliver Wendell Holmes

“Our prime purpose in life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them.”

---Dalai Lama



Senator McCain and the Rest of Us



Amy Vilela Deed DeBruno

I find it ironic that the U.S. Senate would postpone the vote on the horrific AHCA because Senator John McCain was found to have a blood clot above his left eye. Senator McCain received the best possible care under the supervision of Dr. Peter Najaki, director of the neurosurgery residency program at the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix. The entire country had been terribly concerned about our Senator, the war hero. The country remained concerned, while the aforementioned controversial legislation that includes securing healthcare for our government representatives, could have denied an additional twenty million plus Americans healthcare.

Ironically again, my daughter Shalynne also had a blood clot. She did not receive the best possible care. No one was terribly concerned. In fact, so unconcerned was the healthcare industry, she was refused appropriate care due to lack of proof of insurance, and the clot went undiagnosed. Ironically still, my husband is a war

hero, deployed nine different times and proud to serve his country and keep his family safe. Unfortunately, this fact also did not secure the appropriate care for Shalynne, and a short time later, my daughter died in my arms from a pulmonary embolism.

Sadly, occurrences like these are not only tragic, but far too common. For those of us who do not have the benefit of drafting and passing legislation to serve our own self-interest, we are forced to depend upon our elected representatives to serve us. Most do not. Instead, the interests of the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries are served. Whether healthcare comes in the form of the ACA, or AHCA, or any insurance based plan, profit, not patients is still served first and foremost, and people die. Since the loss of my daughter, I have expended every ounce of energy in the fight to prevent these unnecessary deaths, in fact, it has become my calling. As a healthcare advocate and activist, I have fought diligently for the one and only humane solution to this inhumane atrocity. Medicare for All. Only Medicare for All removes profit from our healthcare. Only Medicare for All allows every citizen to receive the appropriate care and recover comfortably. Only Medicare for All prevents all deaths due to lack of, or lack of proof of health insurance. Only Medicare for All serves all Americans, all the people. It is about time our elected officials do the same.

---Amy Vilela

Amy is a Congressional candidate, Nevada District 4, after her member of Congress refused to cosponsor HR 676. Amy was recently featured in Rolling Stone. Amy is helping start a Healthcare-NOW chapter in Nevada, but she lived for almost 20 years in Kansas City, MO. Amy spoke at the Healthcare-NOW conference in New York City.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHZNifxanAY>





Messaging and Understanding

(condensed)

During a time when there is a crescendo of support for single payer/Medicare for All, the Economist/YouGov polls suggest that support declined during the past couple of months. There is a lesson here, but it is not that single payer support is fading.

The single payer policy community recognize these two questions as being essentially the same from a policy perspective. The layman hears the first question as being the expansion of Medicare to cover everyone (Medicare for All), whereas the second question is about single payer, government, and taxes (single payer). The first is a popular insurance program which we have all earned and eventually participate in, and would it be that everyone could be included. The second is about government taking over health care and us being taxed for it.

We knew this. "Medicare for all" polls better than does "single payer." People are beginning to understand the single payer concept well enough such that there is more support than opposition, even if it is a government program for which we will be taxed. The term "single payer" will be used by friend and foe alike. People must understand that it refers to an improved version of Medicare in which everyone gets to participate.

The lesson? We should not only continue with but we should expand our education and advocacy activities through coalitions and grassroots efforts. The people are getting the word. Support is burgeoning. Soon the public will be immunized against the soundbites of the opponents.

---Don McCanne, M.D.

System lets Centene profit at the public trough

(letter printed in the Post-Dispatch July 21)



Suzanne Rechten Reinhold

Regarding "Centene helps with opening of clinic inside Ferguson Schnucks grocery" (July 20): A balanced article on the good deed of Centene, in setting up a medical clinic in Ferguson while it makes huge profits as the middleman in distributing Medicaid dollars, should tell readers how the U.S. system lets Centene profit so greatly at the public trough. Medicaid, however limited the care it provides, is the company's lifeline. Every dollar of profit is one less dollar for medical care for the poor. How absurd that our country lets companies and investors profit on the backs of the most vulnerable. "Medicare for All" would use every dollar for medical care, at a cost of under 5 percent.

---Suzanne Rechten Reinhold • St. Louis County



Missourians for Single Payer Health Care
438 N. Skinker Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63130

Non-profit Organization
US Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit MO 3550

Address Service Requested

Membership Form

Missourians for Single Payer Health Care

438 N. Skinker Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63130

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.