

## **COACT'S HEALTH CAMPAIGN AND VICTORIES OF THE PAST 23 YEARS (from present to past)**

Present: COACT serves as headquarters for the Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition (MUHCC) by providing conference room, office space, phone banking, and office staff management.

Spring 2010: Single-payer Minnesota Health Plan passes out of the Senate Judiciary Committee as constitutional, which makes a record of 4 Committees that pass the bill in the biennium. 74 legislators are co-authors, which is a 1/3 of the legislature.

*Regaining control over our health care with the Minnesota Health Plan* is presented by COACT and the Land Stewardship Project at Freeport town meeting March 15, which attracts over 50 farmers and other rural Central Minnesotans.

Fall 2010: "Mad-As-Hell" Doctors, on their national tour, protest Federal plan's "compromise care" and praise Minnesota's Health Plan for single-payer at the state capitol where MUHCC and COACT rally supporters.

Winter 2009: COACT leaders testify for Minnesota Health Plan at Bemidji and Little Falls state legislative budget crisis hearings.

Minnesota Health Plan sets legislative record by passing out of Senate Commerce and Health Committees.

Spring - Summer 2008: COACT members lobby at the state's majority party gatherings to help get delegates to make Minnesota Health Plan their top legislative priority.

Winter 2008: On a history-making vote, the Minnesota Health Plan passes its first legislative hearing February 18 when the Senate Health Committee votes 8 to 3 for the bill. Due to COACT phone calls, Senator Paul Koering, a Brainerd area Republican, votes with DFLers to make the vote bi-partisan.

Spring 2007: 57 legislators breach HMO lobby at the state capitol by co-authoring the Minnesota Health Plan.

Spring 2006: COACT's Don Pylkkanen represents COACT outside United Health Group's headquarters by calling the extravagant \$1.6 billion stock options of CEO Bill McGuire "another example of HMO waste, when health care inflation is breaking the budgets of families, businesses, farms, and local and state government."

November and December 2005: MUHCC and COACT representatives meet with House Minority Leader Matt Entenza and Senate Health Committee chair Becky Lourey who agree the time has come to deprivatize the state's health programs and have them administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS). Entenza gets MUHCC's proposal drafted into a bill, and Lourey promises to have it heard in her Health Committee.

Winter 2005: COACT and MUHCC members meet with Senate and House single-payer leaders and House Minority Leader Matt Entenza to form a single-payer legislative caucus.

Fall 2005: Escalating health care costs and their adverse effects on all groups of citizens were presented to House Minority Leader Matt Entenza at COACT's Annual Membership Meeting in St. Paul October 29.

2003: Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition (MUHCC) of 14 unions, citizen, and provider groups get the Single-Payer Universal Health Care Bill introduced in the 2003-04 legislative session which passes out of the Senate Health and Family Security Committee in the 2004 session.

COACT testified for the bill in behalf of MUHCC. The authors/co-authors are willing to form a universal health care caucus to work with MUHCC in the 2004-05 session for significant steps toward single-payer health care.

Fall-Winter 2002-2003: COACT works with the Universal Health Care Task Force, a coalition of citizen groups building public support for universal health care legislation introduced in the 2003 Minnesota Legislature by Senators John Marty and Leo Foley and Representatives Neva Walker and Mary Ellen Otremba. The Task Force meets with the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE) which offers support to gain backing from other unions, providers, independent business owners, and community groups.

COACT works with Families USA in *Cover The Uninsured Week* in March 2003 by organizing a forum on unaffordable prescription drug prices featuring U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone.

Winter 2002: COACT organizes the *Coalition for the Fair Drug Pricing Act* to have the Fair Drug Pricing Act *recalled* from committee in order to have a full House hearing and vote, if the Health and Human Services Committee Chairman, Fran Bradley, refuses to hear the bill. This forces movement on the bill.

July 2001: COACT and Senior Federation disarm the drug companies' argument that the discount of the Fair Drug Pricing Act will hurt R&D (research and development). At a COACT-Federation news conference, the groups release a Public Citizen report documenting that drug companies pay only 1/5 of what they claim to pay for R&D.

Winter-Spring 2001: COACT works in coalition with the Minnesota Senior Federation and other groups for passage of the Fair Drug Pricing Act in the Minnesota Senate which is stalled in the House Health and Human Services by its Chairman Fran Bradley. The bill calls for extending the 15%-20% Medicaid discount on prescription drug prices to the 768,000 Minnesotans without drug coverage.

Summer 2000: COACT presents \$57 from its Anoka bake sale to Senator Rod Grams' staff to get his support of the Allen-Johnson Bill to include prescription drugs in Medicare. The \$57 offer is refused in favor of the \$35,600

that Grams took from the drug companies during his first term, according to Public Citizen. Grams refuses to support the Allen-Johnson bill.

January 2000: COACT sponsors a *Single-Payer Universal Health Care Education Conference* at the state capitol where Deb McPherson of the Canadian Nurses Association educated legislators on the success of Canada's Universal Health Care System.

Summer and Fall, 1999: COACT and the Minnesota Senior Federation conduct public forums and a debate in St. Cloud on the effect a second hospital (Allina) in the community would have on cost containment, choice of providers, and comprehensive care. The debate shows the public what a single-payer consumers' board would look like to provide public accountability in future planning by HMOs and the health care industry.

Summer 1998 - 1999: COACT's Health Reform "Get-Togethers" in the Twin Cities and central Minnesota turn anxious consumers into Medicare and single-payer activists.

August 1997: The COACT Education Foundation (CEF) publishes a new report entitled *Strangled Competition II: The Quality of Health Care Under Managed Competition*.

1997: COACT and the Minnesota Senior Federation succeed in passing the Prescription Drug Fair Competition Act. The Health Care Consumer Protection Alliance passes, with leadership and support from COACT, a version of the Patient Protection Act of 1997.

June 1996: COACT hosts community forum, "Building a Health Care Consumer Bill of Rights".

May 1996: COACT receives the Archbishop Leo C. Byrne award for its success at building low-income activism and leadership on health care reform.

July 1995: The COACT Education Foundation (CEF) releases a comprehensive report on Minnesota's HMO health care system entitled *Strangled Competition: A Critique of Minnesota's Experiment with Managed Competition*.

September 1991: COACT organizes Minnesota's portion of a coast-to-coast *Emergency Drive for Health Care* which sends ambulance caravans to Washington, D.C. carrying thousands of citizens' demands for national health for all.

1991: COACT and HCCM introduce the first single-payer bill in Minnesota.

December 1989: COACT endorses a single-payer health care system for Minnesota.

April 1987: COACT and the Minnesota Senior Federation organize a statewide coalition of 30 unions and civic organizations for universal health care, which becomes the Health Care Campaign of Minnesota (HCCM).