

Healthcare Reform Still A Priority for UESF, Affiliates

Increase in District Family Healthcare Contribution and 1.5% Raise Start July 1, 2008

Starting July 1, 2008 there will be a \$25 increase in the district healthcare contribution to the employee plus one plan and the employee plus two or more plan. Also July 1, 2008 all UESF members will receive a 1.5% salary increase. The gains are part of the contract settlement between UESF and SFUSD, reached in September of 2007.

Possible Area Representative Job Opening in the Fall

Interested in becoming more involved in your union? Want a chance to sharpen your organizing skills? Then apply to be a UESF Area Representative.

Area Representatives are a key link in UESF's organizing structure, working with Building Representatives and UBCs to build the union at the site level, and with UESF activists to promote the goals of the union in the district and the city.

The job is a paid position for approximately 5 hours a week, and includes site visits and some evening work. It is ideally suited to a teacher on sabbatical or a recent retiree, but can also be the right fit for a dedicated teacher or para who works full time.

If you are interested, please call UESF Communications Director Matthew Hardy at 956-8373 or email mhardy@uesf.org.

In February, Governor Schwarzenegger's healthcare plan stalled out in the state legislature, largely because of inadequate affordability protections and the provision that mandated insurance not healthcare coverage for all Californians. Without affordability protections, the insurance mandate was widely seen by reformers as a boon for insurance companies, but a burden for low-income and working families.

Single-payer – Definition

A system of health care characterized by universal and comprehensive coverage. Single-payer health care is similar to the health services provided by Medicare in the U.S. The government pays for care that is delivered in the private (mostly not-for-profit) sector. Doctors are in private practice and are paid on a fee-for-service basis from government funds. The government does not own or manage their medical practices or hospitals.

Single-payer health care is distinct and different from socialized medicine in which doctors and hospitals work for and draw salaries from the government.

(From www.medterms.com)

Although healthcare reform has stalled at the state level, a new national movement for reform is well underway. Congressman John Conyers (D-MI) has put forward HR 676, national single-payer healthcare legislation.

Now with 90 co-sponsors in the House, HR 676 would institute a single payer health care system in the U.S. by expanding a greatly improved Medicare system to every resident. Providing across the board coverage, HR 676 would cover every person in the U. S. for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs, hospital, surgical, outpatient services, primary and preventive care, emergency services, dental, mental health, home health, physical therapy, rehabilitation (including for substance abuse), vision care, chiropractic, and long term care.

HR 676 would also save billions annually by eliminating the high overhead and profits of the private health insurance industry and HMOs.

Though prospects are dim with the current administration in Washington, D.C., support for real healthcare reform continues to grow, and it is only a matter of time before a new President is elected.

In the meantime, UESF, along with our



On Thursday, June 19th over 2,500 people attended a giant rally for universal healthcare in San Francisco. The rally, set to coincide with the American Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) meeting at San Francisco's Moscone Convention Center, was a chance to keep up the pressure on reforming our broken healthcare system. The event was emceed by UESF President Dennis Kelly.

state affiliates, the California Federation of Teachers (CFT) and the California Teachers Association (CTA), will continue to push for single-payer healthcare legislation in California (State Senator Sheila Kuehl's SB 840).



UESF Secretary Susan Solomon, para Tom Harriman, teacher Patrick Fahey, and retiree Sandra Mack rally for healthcare reform on June 19th.

