

COACT'S HEALTH CAMPAIGN AND VICTORIES

2003-Present: 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 be used to gain backing from other unions, providers, independent business owners, and community groups.

COACT works with Families USA in the Minnesota part of the national *Cover The Uninsured Week* in March 2003. Organizes 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 that musters support for a Recall of the Fair Drug Pricing Act for a full House hearing and vote if the Health and Human Services Committee Chairman, Fran Bradley, refuses to have a hearing on 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 recent Public Citizen report documenting that drug companies pay only 1/5 of what they claim to pay for R&D. Instead of paying an average of \$500 million for R&D on a new drug, they actually pay \$110 million because of taxpayer subsidies that pay for most of their research.

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 a bake sale to Senator Rod Grams' staff to get his support of the Allen-Johnson Bill to include prescription drugs in Medicare. His staff refuses the \$57 offer in favor of the \$35,600 Grams took from the drug companies during his first term, according to a Public Citizen report. 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: COACT and the COACT Education Foundation (CEF) publish a new report entitled *Strangled Competition II: The Quality of Health Care Under Managed Competition- The Promise and the Reality*.

1997: COACT and the Minnesota Senior Federation succeed in passing the Prescription Drug Fair Competition Act. The Health Care Consumer Protection Alliance forms, with leadership and support from COACT, and passes a weakened 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: COACT and the COACT Education Foundation (CEF) release 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 the Minnesota 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 helps organize a statewide coalition for universal health care coverage which becomes the Health Care Campaign of Minnesota (HCCM).