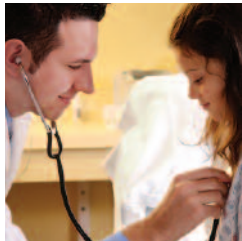


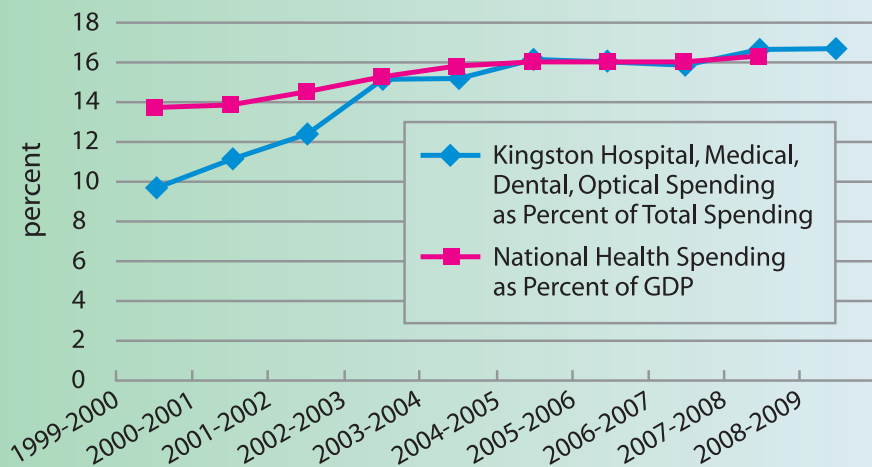
WHAT COULD YOU DO WITH \$70 BILLION DOLLARS?



HR 676: Healthcare Savings for Healthier Cities

The ABCs of Improved Medicare-for-All A Primer for the Kingston City School District

Here's an example of how HR 676 could benefit just one school district.



Following national trends, each year a larger share of the budget of the Kingston City School District (Ulster County, NY) is needed to meet health benefit costs, which have nearly tripled over the last ten years.

In 2007-2008 the Kingston City School District paid out \$65.6 million in wages and \$22.6 million for health benefits, including basic hospital, medical, dental and vision care and a 1.45% payroll tax for Medicare.

Under HR 676, the school district would have paid only \$3.9 million for health benefits, resulting in a savings of \$18.7 million for the 2007-2008 school year.

Under HR 676, the average school district employee with an annual wage of \$44,700 would pay only \$123/month in a new 3.3% payroll tax—eliminating co-pays and deductibles.

The savings could:

- support 200 new teachers
- fund major capital improvements to every school
- reduce class size and provide a teaching assistant for every class

The Kingston City School District is just one of 87,850 state and local government jurisdictions in the U.S. Imagine the impact of replicating these savings over the entire country!

HR 676

Win-Win Campaign

Rebuild 30,000 lane miles of road?

**Build 560,000 units
of affordable housing?**

**Hire 1 million teachers, firefighters,
police and other critical employees?**

Renovate 7,000 schools?

Healthcare Savings for Healthier Cities

For far too long, rising healthcare costs have drained local and state budgets of the resources they need to rebuild, renovate and restore the vitality of their communities.

- Our employees are paying more in premiums, co-pays and deductibles, yet too many are denied needed care.
- Increasing health benefits costs—averaging 11% a year since 1999—consume city and county budgets, leaving more and more of our residents uninsured. (Currently, 48 million Americans lack health insurance.)
- Tax revenues cannot fill the gap, especially during an economic downturn.
- As state and local government debt increases, bond ratings go down.
- With state and local coffers bleeding, residents face cuts in needed services such as police and fire protection, medical services for the uninsured, parks and recreation.

The passage of HR 676—Improved Medicare-for-All—is a win-win situation. It could transform this bleak picture, providing guaranteed health care for all while helping financially-strapped state and local governments find new monies to underwrite growing challenges. **Indeed, estimates show that they could realize at least \$70 billion in annual health care savings.**

Healthy Cure for Ailing Cities

State legislatures and the US Congress have proposed reform measures to address the health insurance crisis. Because most do not change the way we finance health care, they fall woefully short.

BENEFIT	STATE REFORM BILLS	HR 676
Guarantee, comprehensive coverage for everyone from the “womb to the tomb”	NO	✓
Reduce state and local government health benefits costs for employees	NO	✓
Reduce government employee share of health benefits costs	NO	✓
Remove state and local responsibility for retired employee health benefits	NO	✓
Reduce charity care	Some reductions	✓
Reduce administrative and labor negotiation costs	NO	✓
Limit treatment decisions to patient and doctor only	NO	✓

HR 676—Improved Medicare-for-All—is the best cure for the American health care crisis because:

- It **saves money and controls costs** by replacing multiple public and private payers with a single national health insurance program. The national program will negotiate fees with providers, purchase drugs and medical supplies in bulk, and monitor budgets and capital plans for hospitals and other medical facilities.
- It **minimizes risk**, combining the whole US population into one large pool of over 300 million people.
- It **eliminates private insurance**. Private insurance eats up 30% of every dollar in profits, marketing and administration. Medicare operates on less than 5% overhead.
- It **simplifies health care**. One program will cover all health issues for everyone.
- It guarantees quality **care for all**. No one can be denied care or forced to use an emergency room because s/he has no doctor or coverage.

Winning HR 676 is Up to You

- Have your city, town or state pass a resolution supporting HR 676 and send it to your Congressional representatives and state legislators. Go to **www.healthcare-now.org** to download a sample municipal resolution.
- If you are a Mayor, Governor, Commissioner or other local elected official, call a press conference and declare your support for HR 676, Improved Medicare for All. Explain that it is the only health insurance solution that will save your local jurisdiction money, eliminate bureaucracy and guarantee quality health care for everyone. Healthcare-NOW will help you identify other leaders and organizations in your area who support HR 676 and who will stand with you before the press.
- Form a delegation of local elected officials in your Congressional District. Meet with your Congressperson and ask that s/he endorse HR 676. Explain that it is critical to restore fiscal health to local government.
- Win endorsements from national bodies that represent you, such as:
 - The National League of Cities
 - The Council of State Governments
 - The United States Conference of Mayors
 - The National Governors Association
 - National Conference of State Legislatures
 - The National Urban League
 - The National Association of County Administrators
 - The International City/County Management Association
- Be an effective advocate about HR 676. Learn more at:
 - www.healthcare-now.org
 - www.house.gov/conyers
 - www.pnhp.org
 - www.calnurses.org

Sources

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- Woolhandler, Campbell and Himmelstein, "Costs of Health Care Administration in the United States and Canada," *N Eng J Med* 2003; 349:768-75.
- Woolhandler, et al. "Paying for National Health Insurance—And Not Getting It," *Health Affairs* 21(4); July / Aug. 2002.
- Kingston City School District budgets provided by Art Richter, Healthcare-NOW!, Business Coalition for Single Payer.

For more information on the Win-Win Campaign, contact:

Healthcare - NOW!

Health is on the way!

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