

# LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FOR **GUARANTEED HEALTH CARE**

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members of the House of Representatives and Health Staff

**FROM:** The Leadership Conference for Guaranteed Health Care: The National Single Payer Alliance (Conveners: Physicians for a National Health Program, Progressive Democrats of America, Healthcare NOW!, California Nurses Association/NNOC).

**RE:** Forum: “National Lessons for Health Reform: An Examination of US Health Insurance”  
April 1, 2009, 2pm – 4pm, 2226 Rayburn House Office Building

We encourage you and your staff to attend an important Congressional forum organized by the Leadership Conference for Guaranteed Health Care. The US has relied on private insurance for sixty years -- what lessons can we take from this experience? What are the implications of the growing phenomenon of underinsurance? As President Obama says, we must keep what works and end what does not. The April 1 forum will examine insurance mechanisms that will be increasingly debated as national models for health reform.

The forum, “National Lessons for Health Reform: An Examination of US Health Insurance”, will be held on **April 1, 2009, 2pm – 4pm, 2226 Rayburn House Office Building**. Witnesses will include:

- Louis Balizet, MD, Oncologist
- Marilyn Cawthon, ICU RN, Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals
- Leonard Rodberg, PhD, Professor and Chair of Urban Studies Queens College
- Annette Ramirez de Arellano, DrPH, Health Research Group, Public Citizen
- Cindy Young, Senior Health Policy Advisor California School Employees Association
- David L Rabin MD, MPH, Professor of Community Medicine, Georgetown University Medical Center

The witness panel will address topics highly relevant to the debate over national health reform,

- How well does US health insurance work for doctors, nurses, and their patients?
- What problems do those with insurance have in accessing care?
- Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan, is it a model for national reform?
- What has the fragmented US health insurance system meant for minority populations?
- If, as many believe, employer-based insurance is broken, what is buttressing it?
- Has private insurance within Medicare met expectations?

All Members of Congress are invited to participate in the forum by listening to witness testimony and asking questions of the panel. Congressman Eric Massa [NY-29] will chair the forum. The forum will be web-cast live.

The Leadership Conference for Guaranteed Health Care is a coalition of doctors, nurses and other health care providers; labor unions; nonprofit agencies; reform advocates and faith-based organizations working to achieve guaranteed comprehensive, high quality, and affordable health care coverage for everyone. The coalition specifically advocates for a publicly funded and privately delivered national health care system structured around a single-payer financing mechanism.

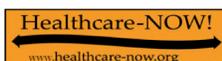
This briefing is intended for Members and staff but is open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For headcount purposes, please RSVP to Jessica Yarbrough, [jyarbrough@calnurses.org](mailto:jyarbrough@calnurses.org), (202) 974-8300.



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