

Healthcare-NOW! House Parties!



March 31st – Frontline’s *Sick Around America*, the highly anticipated sequel to *Sick Around the World* will premiere at 9pm on PBS. This is an excellent opportunity to gather together to talk about the health care crisis, educate new people about the single-payer solution, and help raise funds for Healthcare-NOW! and your local single-payer organization.

[Watch the preview here.](#)

Sick Around America

Premieres Mar. 31, 2009 – 9PM
60 minutes

Program Description: As the worsening economy leads to massive job losses -- potentially increasing the ranks of the tens of millions of Americans without health insurance -- FRONTLINE travels the country examining the nation's broken health care system and exploring the need for a fundamental overhaul. The scale of the problem now facing the Obama administration, FRONTLINE finds, is staggering, as lay-offs, major illness, and other unexpected life changes leave more and more Americans uninsured, underinsured or uninsurable. FRONTLINE also goes inside insurance companies to question executives on their policies, programs and priorities and examines the problems in one state's attempts at health care reform.

Producer(s): T.R. Reid



339 Lafayette St. New York, NY 10012 – 1-800-453-1305 – info@healthcare-now.org

www.healthcare-now.org

House Party Guidelines

As single-payer activists, we should always be thinking about three things: outreach, education, and raising money to do the first two items. The single-payer movement has been working to affect the public consciousness for decades, but with the work of Healthcare-NOW! and allied organizations, we can say that the energy for change is now palpable. Health care reform is on the national radar. Please participate in this action that will allow us to do much-needed outreach, education, and fundraising to sustain Healthcare-NOW! and our local single-payer coalitions.

On March 31st, Frontline's *Sick Around America* will premiere on PBS at 9pm. Healthcare-NOW! urges the single-payer network to use this event to host a house party. If it is too late in the evening, the film will be available for free online after the premiere. DVDs will be available on May 12, 2009. After the 60 minute film, take advantage of the excellent opportunity to educate your guests on the single-payer solution. This packet contains a great deal of information: handouts, links to short films available online and more to lead a successful discussion on the benefits of single-payer national health care.

The economic impact of grassroots organizing is being felt by many of our organizations. Please also take this opportunity to pass the hat for Healthcare-NOW! and your local single-payer coalition. Checks, cash, and on-the-spot online (if Internet is available) donations can be gathered to continue the work of Healthcare-NOW!. The money raised will help us develop materials, support the nationwide day of action on May 30th, and maintain the staff to facilitate this critical work. Raising visibility and consciousness for Healthcare-NOW! keeps the most important voice in the national health care debate: yours.

This packet contains:

- 1) House Party 101: How to Organize a Healthcare-NOW! House Party
- 2) Education Materials
- 3) Links to Short Films on HR 676 and Single Payer
- 4) Downloadable Sign-In Sheet
- 5) Patient Stories
- 6) Ideas for Action

Let us know that you plan to host a party, and we will send copies of the Improved Medicare for All Booklet and Health Care Crisis Bookmarks to help educate your guests. Send party details, host and mailing address to info@healthcare-now.org.

We must receive requests at least one week in advance of your party to make sure the materials arrives on time. Thank you!

House Party 101

Many of us are seasoned in house party organizing by now, but here are just a few reminders of things to consider when planning:

- 1) Healthcare-NOW! encourages each person to host or co-host the parties to bring in as many new faces as possible. Reach out to friends, family, co-workers, and others to get a conversation on health care reform and single-payer. Many people participated in House Parties during the last election or in the series of nationwide health discussions. Consider inviting the people from these previous gatherings to continue the conversation on how to fix our health care system – the single-payer way.
- 2) *Sick Around America* is slated to premiere on March 31st at 9pm on PBS, but before advertising the event, check your local listing to verify time and channel. The running time for the film is 60 minutes. The film will be available for free online after the premier, so consider watching it online or with a projector (if available) in a larger group. DVDs won't be available until May 12th from Frontline. You can purchase a copy here <http://www.shoppbs.org/sm-pbs-frontline-season-27-sick-around-america-dvd--pi-3511819.html>
- 3) Consider calling your representative and asking that they watch the film, too.
- 4) Tell Healthcare-NOW! you are organizing a party at info@healthcare-now.org and request free educational materials in addition to the handouts included in this document.
- 5) After the film, ask if anyone present has their own story to share. Take some time to discuss the experiences of your guests. Share some stories from Healthcare-NOW!'s [Death by Spreadsheet Booklet](#).
- 6) *Sick Around America* is expected to present a compelling portrayal of the US health care crisis, but it will not likely take a position on a solution to the problem or specific reform. This is our opportunity to educate our guests. Look through the materials included in this moderator packet, and be prepared to make a pitch for HR 676 and single-payer. Use the materials and short online videos to shape your message and then open up for discussion.
- 7) Pass the "JOIN US" sheet for people to sign up to get involved with Healthcare-NOW! and the local organizing in their area. You likely have your own local initiatives taking place, so we encourage you to bring any local petitions, post cards, or announcements to share with your guests. Or have people join Healthcare-NOW! [online](#) on your home computer.
- 8) Be prepared to ask for a donation to support the work of Healthcare-NOW! and your local single-payer coalition. Have a "hat" to pass, and make a pitch for the

importance of organizing for single-payer national health care at this critical moment in reform. In these troubling economic times, every little bit helps. Tax deductible donations can be made online or checks can be made out to IFCO/Healthcare-NOW!. You can ask guests to make on-the-spot donations through the secure server to [Healthcare-NOW!](#).

- 9) After the party, send a portion or all of the donations and the JOIN US sheet to Healthcare-NOW! 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012.

Thank you for helping to build the single-payer community!

Downloadable Educational Materials

Select a few of these very informative handouts to download and copy for your guests:

Real Facts on the Insurance Industry [Part 1](#)

Real Facts on the Insurance Industry [Part 2](#)

[10 Reasons](#) to Support HR 676

Why the [Mandate Plans](#) Won't Work

[Who](#) supports HR 676?

Single Payer [FAQs](#)

The [Polling](#) Is Quite Clear

Links to Short Videos describing HR 676

If Internet is available, you can watch these videos on-the-spot with your guests. DVD Copies of HR 676: The Single Payer Solution can be requested from Healthcare-NOW! at info@healthcare-now.org

Great [animated](#) video on single-payer

[PNHP Produced](#) short video on single-payer

HR 676: The Single Payer Solution [Part 1](#)

HR 676: The Single Payer Solution [Part 2](#)

HR 676: The Single Payer Solution [Part 3](#)

HR 676: The Single Payer Solution [Part 4](#)

Additional Patient Stories

[Death by Spreadsheet](#) – stories posted to the Healthcare-NOW! online petition

New stories featured regularly at <http://www.guaranteedhealthcare.org/>

Sign the Online Petition

This is an action your guests can take before leaving the party. Ask them to sign the petition and add their name to the thousands already gathered who will no longer stand for greed and profit in health care.

<http://www.healthcare-now.org/petition/>

Join Us

Please download this sheet OR save paper and encourage people to sign up online here:

<http://www.healthcare-now.org/contact/sign-up/>

Ideas for Further Action

- 1) Call your elected officials and tell them to support single-payer and HR 676. Call toll free at 1-866-338-1015
- 2) Make sure everyone knows about upcoming local events and meetings.
- 3) Encourage all of your guests to bring someone to the next meeting or event.
- 4) Write Letters to the Editor
http://www.pnhp.org/action/how_to_write_an_oped_and_letter_to_the_editor.php
- 5) Get a resolution passed in your local municipality-
<http://www.healthcare-now.org/campaigns/win-win/>
- 6) Get your union to pass a resolution - <http://unionsforsinglepayer.org/>
- 7) Tell everyone you know about single-payer and HR 676.

- 8) Become a monthly financial sustainer of Healthcare-NOW!
<https://secure.groundspring.org/dn/index.php?aid=2264>
- 9) Sign up for Healthcare-NOW! action alerts
- 10) Circulate a petition supporting single-payer.