

**Media Advisory                                                                   DATE \_\_\_\_\_\_**

*Contact: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**(lead with something like: Iowa City Teachers,)Community Leaders Plan Festive Celebration for Medicare's 50th Anniversary**

**Part of National Day of Action July 30th**

***Join Call to Protect, Improve and Expand Medicare to All***

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and other community leaders will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid Thursday July 30 with a festive event and action in [your city].

The celebration is part of a national day of action, in over 25 U.S. cities, that calls on policy makers to protect, improve, and expand Medicare to cover all Americans with a single standard of quality care not based on ability to pay. The overall theme is  "Medicare is as American as Apple Pie," i.e. to Protect, Improve and Expand (PIE) Medicare to cover everyone.

"After 50 years, we have a lot of experience with Medicare, enough time to see that it works, has kept tens of millions of Americans out of poverty, and remains enormously popular,” said Jean Ross, RN, and Co-president of National Nurses United, part of the coalition organizing the national day of action.

“Schemes to privatize or erode Medicare would be devastating for many, many people. The best way to protect Medicare is to upgrade it and expand it to cover everyone. It is time for this country to catch up with other nations and implement a universal system of guaranteed healthcare,” Ross said.

 [fill in your local info below, like this Chicago example]

**What: Celebration for Medicare's 50th Anniversary and Protest Action**

**When: Thursday, July 30 11:30 am - 2 pm. Protest action at Humana 11:45 a.m.**

**Where: Heritage Green Park, 610 W. Adams (at Des Plaines)**

**Protest action at Humana, 550 W. Adams**

**[Describe your local action in more detail here]:**

**[Put quote of person/organization participating here]**

**[Put another quote here - naming person and affiliation]**

Planned actions across the nation include public forums, rallies, marches, skits, flash mobs and birthday celebration parties, picnics and BBQ's. In Washington DC nurses will lobby legislators to support HR676, the Expanded & Improved Medicare For All Act, introduced by Rep. John Conyers. This bill would create a publicly financed, privately delivered health care system that improves and expands the already existing Medicare program to all U.S. residents, and all residents living in U.S. territories.

Organizers say the actions will underscore the need to expand access to health care in the U.S. since, despite passage of the Affordable Care Act, millions of residents continue to go without adequate care. Twenty-one states have refused to expand Medicaid coverage to eligible patients and members of Congress, such as U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan, continue to push for reductions in Medicare with proposals to increase the eligibility age, eliminate providers and turn Medicare into a voucher program.

The national day of action is co-sponsored by an ad hoc coalition that includes: National Nurses United, Illinois Single Payer Coalition, Physicians for A National Health Plan, Alliance for Community Services, Chicago Federation of Labor, Champaign County AFL-CIO, Northern Illinois Jobs with Justice, Chicago Jobs with Justice, Health and Medicine Policy Research Group, Radical Public Health, Students for a National Health Plan, Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans, Fox Valley Citizens for Peace and other co-sponsoring organizations.

The day of action for Medicare's 50th anniversary includes actions in Boston and Western Massachusetts, Chicago, Dearborn, Detroit, El Paso, Tx., Lakewood, Oh., Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Oakland, Portland, Me., St. Paul, Mn., Washington DC, and other cities.

You can find more locations here:

<https://www.healthcare-now.org/medicares-anniversary/50th/events/#DC>