

Press Advisory

For News On
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Reform groups step-up campaign to convince Rep. Ed Markey to support HR 676, the national "Medicare for All" bill

Medford and Framingham -- Seven-out-of-ten members of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation are co-sponsors of H.R. 676, the national "Medicare for All" health care reform bill written by Rep. John Conyers. On June 10, health care reform activists will kick off a campaign to convince Rep. Ed Markey to become the eighth Massachusetts co-sponsor.

Supporters of the Medicare for All approach will gather in front of Rep. Markey's Seventh District offices in Medford (5 High Street), and Framingham (188 Concord Street) on June 10 at 4:00 PM.

At both locations, health care reform leaders will brief the news media on how H.R. 676 (single payer) could provide a strong, secure health care plan for all Americans. Afterwards, they will begin distributing a leaflet urging constituents to contact Rep. Markey in support of H.R. 676.

The seven other co-sponsoring Representatives are Reps Michael Capuano, William Delahunt, Barney Frank, Stephen Lynch, James McGovern, John Olver and John Tierney. Seventy-eight other members of Congress are also co-sponsors of HR 676.

In the early 1990s Markey co-sponsored the Wellstone - McDermott single payer bill. Three years ago, a large group of Seventh District residents approached Rep. Markey about co-sponsoring H.R. 676. At that time, he expressed support for the goals of the legislation, but had reservations about how the proposed national insurance plan would be funded.

Rep. Markey's suggestions were relayed back to Rep. Conyers, with a request that HR 676 be revised so that it was funded through a trust fund similar to Medicare's as Markey suggested. Since then, health care reform advocates have repeatedly requested that Rep. Markey become a co-sponsor of HR 676.

Most recently, a group of more than 50 prominent Seventh District constituents signed a joint letter requesting that Rep. Markey co-sponsor the H.R. 676 legislation. The group wrote: "Sustainable health reform will involve contentious politics, but the country and our district cannot afford business as usual any longer. With each passing day we are losing access to quality care, while rising costs are squeezing other basic needs out of our household budgets and squeezing basic services out of federal, state, and municipal budgets."

"Whatever health reform Congress does consider, we believe needs to be held up in comparison with a single-payer plan for cost-efficient, equitable, and universal care. **We need your leadership in supporting this ideal and building momentum for truly sustainable, universal health care in this country.**"