

# Everybody In!

WWW.HEALTHCARE-NOW.ORG

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*A wave of candidates across the country are running for Congress on a Medicare for All platform, including many single-payer champions across the South, Midwest, and traditionally 'red' states. See our 'Standing up for Single Payer' web page to get to know these candidates and why they're fighting for Medicare for All.*

## Will Medicare for All be the signature issue of the 2018 elections?

*by Benjamin Day and Stephanie Nakajima*

Last year's attempt by Trump and the Republican Congress to "repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act not only failed, but led to a surge in popular support for improved Medicare for All. **The social movement for single-payer healthcare has hit record high levels of support in Congress, public opinion polls, and most importantly in our grassroots organizing.**

The next phase in this movement is the 2018 midterm elections. While obviously important for the composition of Congress, just as important will be whether a wave of new candidates running on Medicare for All, and pressure from constituents, can continue the momentum from 2017.

... continued page 2

## Register for the 2018 Single Payer Strategy Conference

You are invited to join hundreds of activists at the 2018 Single Payer Strategy Conference in Minneapolis, MN the weekend of June 22-24. Attempts by Trump and the Republican Congress to undermine existing healthcare programs have awoken a sleeping giant, and the American people are deciding that they don't want to fight just for the right to buy a lousy health insurance plan. Support for Medicare for All has reached unprecedented levels, and this year we plan to construct a national campaign to win Medicare for All that can move us from resistance to victory. **HCN!**

Register today! <http://bit.ly/singlepayer2018>

To achieve this, Healthcare-NOW has launched two new campaigns through the Campaign for Guaranteed Healthcare, the national coalition fighting for single-payer healthcare.

## Standing Up for Single Payer

The first campaign is called “Standing Up for Single Payer” and is focused on asking candidates who already support single-payer healthcare reform to increase their level of commitment and leadership on the issue. Activists across the country are pushing candidates of all parties, whether they are incumbents or challengers, to make Medicare for All a central plank in their platform by featuring it on their campaign website.

- » You can see our listing of candidates who are Standing Up for Single Payer here: <http://bit.ly/standingupforsinglepayer>
- » You can submit a candidate to be added to the listing here: <http://bit.ly/standingupsubmission>

While there is huge crop of new and old candidates running on single payer in

2018, many still haven't made the commitment. That's why we've launched the Single Payer Birddogging Campaign!

## Birddogging for Single Payer

The second campaign is to birddog candidates who have not yet come out in support of Medicare for All, applying public pressure to get them on board and capturing the action on video. Birddogging is the act of publicly asking a politician to take a stand on a particular issue - for this campaign, activists will be asking candidates to sign onto single payer legislation. Out of this confrontation, you'll get their position on record, and it will be important regardless of whether it's a yes, no, or an equivocation. Support for Medicare for All among the public stands at nearly 60%, so politicians who are asked to cosponsor single payer legislation in front of their constituents won't find it so easy to hedge.

200 single payer activists from Texas to Maine, along with several state and local single payer groups, have already joined

this campaign, committing to birddog Congressional candidates of every political stripe this primary season.

These exchanges make great social media or press clips that can be shared with online networks, local progressive organizations, and newspapers. All videos will also be posted on the Birddogging Video Contest page, where viewers can vote for the best and worst candidate responses and help them go viral!

If you're interested in joining this action, you need only 2 things: a smartphone and a friend or two.

All the information you need to plan and execute a birddogging mission - from where to sit at a town hall to the elements of a good 1-minute question to how to hold the camera - we go over in our comprehensive **Guide to Birddogging for Single Payer:** <http://bit.ly/BDDG4SP>

If you'd like to join this campaign and birddog one of your candidates, you can sign up here: <http://bit.ly/birddogsignup> **HCN!**



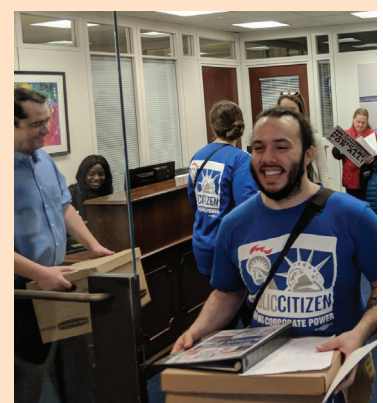
# Activists deliver 1 million signatures demanding Medicare for All

by Stephanie Nakajima

On February 15th, a record-breaking number of signatures for single payer healthcare were strategically dumped on 10 Democratic Senators in their D.C. offices. Holdouts Amy Klobuchar (MN) and Ron Wyden (OR) were among those who received boxes of petitions representing more than 1 million Americans demanding that their Senators sign onto Bernie Sanders's Medicare for All bill.

Outside of DC, activists in California, Florida, Oregon, and other states upped the pressure by organizing district actions delivering tens of thousands of petitions.

Healthcare-NOW, CREDO Action, Our Revolution, and many other allied organizations collected these signatures. Read more about this action here: <http://bit.ly/1M4SP> **HCN!**

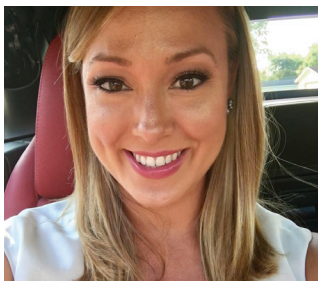




# Healthcare-NOW

## Interviews Ashley Renner

*Ashley Renner is the Director of the National Medicare for All Campaign. She counts herself fortunate to have worked as a community and labor organizer for the last fifteen years. She is originally from Nashville, TN and is currently living in Tampa, FL.*



**Healthcare-NOW!** Why, personally, is the issue of providing health coverage to all so important and urgent for you?

**Ashley Renner:** Healthcare is a very personal issue, I believe generally, but for me it's even more so because mom was diagnosed with inflammatory breast cancer on my eighteenth birthday. They gave her a 50/50 chance of surviving six months. She was a state worker and a single mom raising two daughters on her own. She had good insurance because she had a government job. She was a fighter, too. She survived twelve years before the cancer finally took her life. During that time, we nearly lost our house several times because of the combined cost of the insurance premiums, co-pays and deductibles. They ate away everything we had saved and then some. If it hadn't been for the kind-

ness of friends, family, and coworkers, we really would have lost everything.

I also have a friend who was twenty-six years old when she had her daughter. She had great insurance because she was covered on her parent's insurance, but her daughter was born premature and had to spend twelve days in NICU. She found out that although she was covered by the insurance, her daughter wasn't and she got a hospital bill for over \$250k.

We are better than that. So, to me it's really the most important issue and very personal.

**HCN:** Why has the Fight for \$15 campaign been so successful, and what lessons can the movement for single-payer healthcare learn from it?

**AR:** The Fight for \$15 has been such an inspiration, really the most successful labor campaign certainly in my lifetime and I'd say much longer than that, probably since the Civil Rights Movement. There are probably lots and lots of lessons but if I had to pick I'd say one, making a simple demand. \$15 means people have a fighting chance, they can pay rent, eat and have the lights on all at the same time. Two, I think they were able to let it grow bigger than they could control, which for most organizers is extremely difficult, but required to grow a movement. And three, they were unafraid of the criticism of making such a big, bold demand and they overcame

**"This is an idea whose time has come, and it is a crucial linchpin in our fight for fairness and economic justice."**

— Rep. Keith Ellison



## Keith Ellison takes lead sponsorship of HR 676

On March 7th, Rep. Keith Ellison — Deputy Chair of the DNC and Vice-Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus — assumed lead sponsorship of H.R. 676, the Expanded and Improved Medicare for All bill. The bill has been without a lead sponsor since Rep. John Conyers resigned from Congress late last year amid allegations of sexual harassment.

Ellison is the first Muslim to be elected to the U.S. Congress and the first African-American House member from Minnesota. He takes over the bill at a time of enormous momentum for H.R. 676 and support from over 60% of House Democrats. **HCN!**

that with raw determination and grit. The Fight for \$15 gives me great hope that we can win Medicare for All.

**HCN:** Working with National Nurses United you're coordinating an exciting new campaign for Medicare for All. Tell us about the campaign and the path to victory you see for our movement?

**AR:** First, I want to applaud the vision and leadership of the Nurses Union and for their ongoing commitment on this critical issue.

The campaign is in its infancy but as we meet with people all over the country I'm struck by the deep commitment and intensity that's out there.

Whether we are in Florida, Nevada, Ohio or the Carolinas what we are hearing are countless, heartbreaking stories from people for whom the healthcare system is just broken. Whether they're on an ACA plan, Medicaid, private insurance or they're uninsured, the costs are prohibitive, the insurance companies are preventing people from getting the care they need, and the nurses and other health care professionals are fed up. The only real solution is Medicare for All and people are ready to stand up and fight to make it happen. We are really excited by the potential and look forward to talking with you again once the campaign is fully underway. **HCN!**

# Take Action for Single-Payer Healthcare!

**Legislation by Rep. John Conyers and Sen. Bernie Sanders would create a single-payer system, "expanded and improved Medicare-for-all"**

If you don't see both your Senators or your Representative listed as co-sponsors below, make sure to call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 to be connected to your legislators and ask them to co-sponsor S. 1804 and H.R.676!

## 16 Current Co-Sponsors of S. 1804 (by state):

Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]  
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]  
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]  
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]  
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]  
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]  
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]  
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]  
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]  
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]  
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]  
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]  
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]  
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]  
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]  
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]

## 122 Current Co-Sponsors of H.R. 676 (by last name):

Rep. Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12]  
Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]  
Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]  
Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]  
Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8]  
Rep. Bishop, Sanford D., Jr. [D-GA-2]  
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]  
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]  
Rep. Boyle, Brendan F. [D-PA-13]  
Rep. Brady, Robert A. [D-PA-1]  
Rep. Brown, Anthony G. [D-MD-4]  
Rep. Butterfield, G. K. [D-NC-1]  
Rep. Capuano, Michael E. [D-MA-7]  
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]  
Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-17]  
Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14]  
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]  
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]  
Rep. Clark, Katherine M. [D-MA-5]  
Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]  
Rep. Clay, Wm. Lacy [D-MO-1]  
Rep. Cleaver, Emanuel [D-MO-5]  
Rep. Clyburn, James E. [D-SC-6]  
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]  
Rep. Cooper, Jim [D-TN-5]  
Rep. Correa, J. Luis [D-CA-46]  
Rep. Crowley, Joseph [D-NY-14]  
Rep. Cummings, Elijah E. [D-MD-7]  
Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]  
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]  
Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1]  
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]  
Rep. Deutch, Theodore E. [D-FL-22]  
Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-12]  
Rep. Doyle, Michael F. [D-PA-14]  
Rep. Ellison, Keith [D-MN-5]  
Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-16]  
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]  
Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13]  
Rep. Evans, Dwight [D-PA-2]  
Rep. Frankel, Lois [D-FL-21]  
Rep. Fudge, Marcia L. [D-OH-11]  
Rep. Gabbard, Tulsi [D-HI-2]  
Rep. Gallego, Ruben [D-AZ-7]  
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]  
Rep. Gomez, Jimmy [D-CA-34]  
Rep. Gonzalez, Vicente [D-TX-15]  
Rep. Green, Al [D-TX-9]  
Rep. Green, Gene [D-TX-29]  
Rep. Grijalva, Raul M. [D-AZ-3]  
Rep. Gutierrez, Luis V. [D-IL-4]  
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]  
Rep. Higgins, Brian [D-NY-26]  
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]  
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]  
Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]  
Rep. Jeffries, Hakeem S. [D-NY-8]  
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]  
Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9]  
Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2]  
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]  
Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]  
Rep. Lawrence, Brenda L. [D-MI-14]  
Rep. Lawson, Al, Jr. [D-FL-5]  
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]

Rep. Lewis, John [D-GA-5]  
Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33]  
Rep. Loebsack, David [D-IA-2]  
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]  
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]  
Rep. Lowey, Nita M. [D-NY-17]  
Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-12]  
Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-6]  
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]  
Rep. McNerney, Jerry [D-CA-9]  
Rep. Meeks, Gregory W. [D-NY-5]  
Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]  
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]  
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10]  
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]  
Rep. Nolan, Richard M. [D-MN-8]  
Rep. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]  
Rep. Panetta, Jimmy [D-CA-20]  
Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]  
Rep. Perlmutter, Ed [D-CO-7]  
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]  
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]  
Rep. Polis, Jared [D-CO-2]  
Rep. Price, David E. [D-NC-4]  
Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]  
Rep. Roybal-Allard, Lucille [D-CA-40]  
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]  
Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13]  
Rep. Sablan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho [D-MP-At Large]  
Rep. Sanchez, Linda T. [D-CA-38]  
Rep. Sarbanes, John P. [D-MD-3]  
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]  
Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-28]  
Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3]  
Rep. Serrano, Jose E. [D-NY-15]  
Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]  
Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-8]  
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-25]  
Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9]  
Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]  
Rep. Speier, Jackie [D-CA-14]  
Rep. Swalwell, Eric [D-CA-15]  
Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]  
Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]  
Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5]  
Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]  
Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20]  
Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33]  
Rep. Vela, Filemon [D-TX-34]  
Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]  
Rep. Visclosky, Peter J. [D-IN-1]  
Rep. Waters, Maxine [D-CA-43]  
Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]  
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]  
Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]  
Rep. Yarmuth, John A. [D-KY-3]