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Reps. Ellison & Jayapal Launch Medicare for All Caucus

by Stephanie Nakajima

The challenge was this: with unprecedented levels of grassroots motion on the issue of single payer, as well as record support among House Democrats (64%) for the Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act, how do we activate the 123 cosponsors of H.R. 676 and start fighting to move the bill forward?

With the leadership of Representatives Keith Ellison and Pramila Jayapal, the groundbreaking Congressional Medicare for All Caucus was conceived. 73 co-sponsors of H.R. 676 helped launch the Caucus on July 19, with several others joining shortly after.

The Caucus serves as a forum to raise awareness and inform Members of Congress and their staff about the mechanics of a single payer system; to discuss, debate and solve pressing policy questions regarding H.R. 676; hold briefings with experts that help answer questions and build the



Representative Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) speaks on July 19 at the launch of the Congressional Medicare for All Caucus. The caucus is already up to 73 members.

movement; and offer centralized resources to help constituents and partners who are fighting to move this campaign on the Hill and in our districts.

The Medicare for All Caucus is an important development because building the power necessary to win will require not

only wide but deep commitment from our legislative leaders. Co-sponsorship isn't enough – our Reps and Senators should be actively advocating for the bill, on the Hill and off, and taking the lead on educating the public. The new Caucus will serve as the platform for our legislative champions to engage deeper with the Medicare for All movement.

ACTION: ASK YOUR REP TO JOIN THE CAUCUS

Join activists around the country who are asking their Reps to move beyond sponsorship of HR676 to leadership by joining the Medicare for All Caucus! Check to see if your co-sponsor has joined the caucus here: <http://bit.ly/CaucusCount>

If not, give them a call. Thank them for co-sponsoring H.R. 676 and ask them to join the caucus by contacting the office of Rep. Pramila Jayapal or Rep. Keith Ellison. **HCN!**



More photos, report from 2018 Single Payer Strategy Conference see next page



2018 Single Payer Strategy Conference Hits the Twin Cities

by *Stephanie Nakajima*

Rural farmworkers, young Democratic Socialists of America, veteran union organizers, and many others came together in Minneapolis, June 22-24, for one of our most diverse and inspiring Single Payer Strategy Conferences yet.

The highlight of the event was the launch of National Nurses United's Medicare for All Campaign, the goal of which is to win single-payer healthcare by massively scaling up canvassing operations across the country. Becky Bond, senior strategist for the Bernie Sanders campaign, walked conference attendees through canvassing

strategy for Medicare for All in a special training on Sunday morning.

Experience the conference at home! We have professional video of all the plenaries, along with every presenter's slideshows and handouts. Watch here: <http://bit.ly/2018SinglePayerConference> **HCN!**



Clockwise from top right: The conference kicked off with a March for Guaranteed Healthcare through downtown Minneapolis, led by the Minnesota Nurses Association; Below right: Susan Aarup, from ADAPT and the Illinois Single-Payer Coalition, speaks on the panel Voices from the Grassroots; Above: Christie Offenbacher, social worker and DSA member, speaks on a panel of Testimony from Patients Fighting Back.

Medicare for All Candidates Gaining Ground in Primaries

by Suraj Pasupneti, HCN intern

On June 26, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez rocked the establishment by beating out Joe Crowley in the primary election for New York's 14th District, running on a Medicare for All platform and being outspent 18-to-1. Ocasio-Cortez's story is part of a much broader picture of an unprecedented number of winning candidates across the country running on Medicare for All.

The Brookings Institution's Primaries Project has tracked the platform of all 1,200 Democratic candidates in 2018. They found that 280 progressive Democrats ran for Congress this year, compared to only 60 in 2014, and 97 in 2016. Of those, 81 have won their primaries as of July, dramatically up from 24 winners in 2014.

Brookings also found that almost half of all Democratic candidates running for Congress this year were running explicitly on a Medicare for All platform, which almost no winning candidates were doing two years ago. This was the goal of Healthcare-NOW's "Stand Up for Single Payer"

campaign, which mobilized constituents to demand that their candidates run on Medicare for All.

Importantly, single-payer advocates are now leading in many swing districts, deciding who takes Congress in 2019. Kara Eastman, running on Medicare for All, beat Brad Ashford in the Democratic primary in Nebraska's 2nd District. She will now face off with incumbent Republican Don Bacon, who won in 2016 by a single percentage point.

Interestingly, when Eastman began her campaign, she did not support Medicare for All. However, Eastman witnessed her mother battling a cancer diagnosis while facing thousands of dollars in medical bills per month. When her mother passed away, it then became her family's obligation to pay the bills. "No one should have to be worried about medical bills while coping with the loss of a loved one," she stated, now in support of a single payer system. **HCN!**

Leadership Development Enrollees Launch New Single Payer Groups!

by Benjamin Day

This year Healthcare-NOW enrolled 10 incredible new activists in our national Leadership Development program, which provides a three month intensive training on organizing skills and healthcare policy. Almost all of this year's enrollees are starting new single-payer organizations: in Virginia, Kansas, Connecticut, and northwestern Florida. Why are they becoming leaders in the Medicare for All movement? For Sara Stovall of Charleston, Virginia it's because "On November 1st, 2017 my family's premiums went from \$900/month to more than \$3,000/month. That's \$36,000 a year for a bronze plan!" The leadership training wraps up in August, and our new leaders will start the challenging work of growing new grassroots organizations to win support for Medicare for All in their states! **HCN!**

Connecticut town hall launches a new statewide movement

Activists hosted a powerful Town Hall meeting in East Hartford on July 21, as a first step in building a statewide grassroots single-payer campaign in Connecticut. Connecticut is the only state in the country in which every Representative is a Democrat, but none are co-sponsors of HR676, the Expanded & Improved Medicare for All Act in the House. Over 150 people attended this first educational event to learn more about Medicare for All, and to plug in with organizing work that will launch after the November elections! **HCN!**



Take Action for Single-Payer Healthcare!

Legislation by Rep. Keith Ellison 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]

123 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, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30]
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. Norcross, Donald [D-NJ-1]
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]