

Everybody In!

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HEALTHCARE CENSUS 2022

COUNT ME IN!



Healthcare Census 2022: Can we count you in?

By Gillian Mason

The healthcare industry in the US is a formidable enemy – they have billions of dollars to spend every year to defend their profits. In fact, they spend more on lobbying than any other sector – a grand total of \$677,125,637 in 2021. That isn't even counting campaign contributions, or any of the many other ways hospitals, insurance companies, Big Pharma, or medical device manufacturers throw around their money to influence politics.

We know that if we're going to win Medicare for All, we are going to need enough people power to counter billions of dollars of lobbying by the healthcare industry – and that's not going to be easy. It's going to require a concerted effort on the part of our movement to build our base in a big way.

We also know that talking - and most importantly, really listening - to people is the only way to better understand the issues they are facing and invite them to join us in fighting for real healthcare justice for all of us.

Interview with Greg Casar

Greg Casar is a progressive candidate for Congress who recently won the Democratic primary for District 35 in Texas against a field of more establishment candidates. He was a former community organizer with the Workers Defense Project, fighting to protect basic workplace protections for construction workers and prevent wage theft. He also served on the Austin City Council where he helped pass new policies to protect the houseless community in Austin, making a few enemies along the way. Casar ran on a Medicare for All platform, and was endorsed by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Elizabeth Warren and Senator Bernie Sanders. He won his primary decisively with almost 62% of the vote - his nearest competitor receiving less than 16%.

Healthcare-NOW: What do you think was the reason you were able to have such dominance in the race over your contenders?

Greg Casar: The reality is that Texans and working people across the country want real progressive change, my election is proof of that. On election night, \$15 an hour won, Medicare for All won, the PRO Act won, reproductive rights won,

... continued page 3

That's why we've launched The Healthcare Census. It is a big project with a big goal: to talk with 10,000 of our friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers about the healthcare crisis in this country by December 31, 2022.

The Census interview is a 15-20 minute survey about issues people might face in getting or paying for medical treatment, and it's a great way to start a conversation about healthcare. The answers can remain anonymous, or respondents can give their contact info. The interview can be conducted

over the phone, via zoom, or in-person (with COVID safety precautions in place) - whatever works best for you.

We need volunteers to conduct interviews with others, be interviewed themselves, coordinate a volunteer team, and/or provide tech support to the campaign. Healthcare-NOW will provide all the tools and training you need and host monthly support calls where folks can report back on their progress, brainstorm solutions for common obstacles, and build community with other folks who are passionate about healthcare justice!

You can sign up to participate as an individual here: <https://bit.ly/HealthcareCensusSignup>

Organizations are also welcome to sign on as partners in the campaign -- it's a great way to build leadership, meet new people, and strengthen your organization! If you are a member of a group that would like to join the Healthcare Census, you can find information about how to become a partner organization here: <https://bit.ly/HealthcareCensusOrgFAQ>

Questions? Feel free to email us at HealthcareCensus@healthcare-now.org!

M4A and States' Reign of Terror

By Sofia Sepulveda

Between the reversal of Roe Vs. Wade and the passage of laws across the US stripping trans folks of their rights, over the last few years we've seen Republican-controlled states relentlessly attack femme bodies, trans and cis alike, in an effort to control and continue pushing outdated patriarchal beliefs in our communities.

What these efforts have in common is that they have all been justified by the argument of "State's Rights," the idea that each state should be able to make independent decisions when it comes to providing access to healthcare.

The notion of "State's Rights" may sound benign, but it has been used for centuries to generate massive inequality, from slavery and Jim Crow to refusing to expand Medicaid. The result of the current "State's Rights" fights around women and femmes is that in huge swaths of the country, we are being denied the healthcare we need to survive.

This would end if we enacted Medicare for All. M4A would ensure all states provide the same healthcare services to all, no matter what our ZIP code is. It would guarantee coverage reproductive healthcare, including abortion, as well as access to gender-affirming healthcare for trans women and nonbinary folks, which would mean conservative states could no longer "opt out" of treating us like human beings. Having a national standard for care is the only way to ensure real equity, and M4A is a necessary first step! **HCN**

Four new co-sponsors in four months lead to record support for M4A in Congress

By Benjamin Day

Since December, Medicare for All organizing has won four new co-sponsors of H.R. 1976, the Medicare for All Act! In December, after a months-long campaign led by National Nurses United, Rep. John Garamendi [D-CA-3] signed onto H.R. 1976 for the first time. Then within days of each other in early February Rep. Shontel Brown [D-OH-11], Rep. Donald Norcross [D-NJ-1], and Rep. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick [D-FL-20] all signed on as well. Reps Brown and Cherfilus-McCormick are newly elected and received strong pressure from M4A activists during their primaries, while Rep. Norcross's support was the result of a multiple-year campaign led by our allies in NJ, including the New Jersey Universal Healthcare Coalition and Our Revolution.

These new additions bring the official co-sponsor count to 121 (plus Rep. Jayapal as the lead sponsor for 122) - the highest level of support in the history of Congress, and more than half of Democrats in the House! **HCN**

Greg Casar... from page 1

immigrant rights, the movement for Black lives won, LGBTQIA+ rights won, working families won. I'm ready to continue to organize and fight in Congress to make sure our voices are heard and fight for the dignity and respect of all people.

HCN: Do you believe that issues like Medicare for All helped or hindered your campaign?

GC: I believe that no one should rely on GoFundMe to cover their medical bills and prescriptions. I will fight for Medicare for All so every Texan has access to the doctors and medicines they need to keep their families healthy and safe. Medicare for All is one of my very top priorities in my campaign. I strongly support a national health insurance system that covers all people, even when they lose their jobs. A better system would end premiums, deductibles, co-pays, and surprise bills. A Medicare for All system would be less costly for consumers than our current system and would help keep millions more people healthy. Campaigning for Medicare for All is the right thing to do, and the electorally popular thing to do.

HCN: The pundits' reaction to the 2020 Presidential election were reports that our Latino community was flocking to the Republican Party. Do you believe this to be true, based on the election results this year where a majority of people running for Congress in Texas or other higher offices who won or got into a runoff were majority progressives, championing issues like Medicare for All?

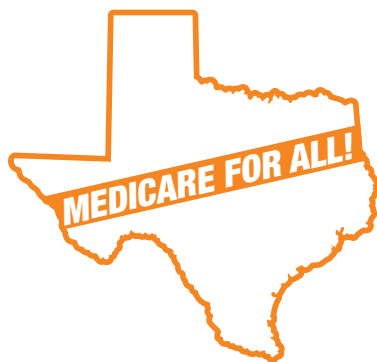
GC: My district is majority Latino and we won with a big margin on March 1st. Texas isn't a red state; it's an under-organized state. Election results showed that these are issues our community wants to see progress on. As a progressive Democrat, my commitment is to improving people's lives - period. That means pushing for progressive policies, but that also means energizing our progressive



base of younger voters, voters of color, and progressive activists to turn out, volunteer, and support other candidates running on these issues. Latinos are overwhelmingly working class, and voters want to see us fight for working families' issues.

HCN: What would you say to those that insist that in order to win, we have to move to the center, and not fight for issues like the Green New Deal or Medicare for All?

GC: I would say that progressive policies are popular. And we're going to pass them for Texas working families. We must out-organize and out-work the opposition. **HCN**



Early Texas Primaries Tell Dems: M4A is a Winner

By Ibrahima Sankare and Benjamin Day

2022 marks the beginning of a major mid-term election. Democrats are clinging to narrow majorities in the House and the Senate, but have still been unable to pass significant legislation such as the "Build Back Better" bill. While one wing of the Party believes that tight election cycles are won by moderating positions, leaning to the center, and shying away from systemic reforms that might alienate corporate lobbies, early primaries in Texas are showing that Medicare for All is a winning message with voters.

Greg Casar (see interview with Healthcare-NOW in this newsletter!) of TX-35 and Jasmine Crockett of TX-30 both won their primaries resoundingly facing establishment Democratic candidates, while Jessica Cisneros of TX-28 has forced a runoff versus Rep. Henry Cuellar - the only sitting Democrat who voted against codifying Roe v. Wade into law. **HCN**

TEXAS MAP VIA VECTEEZY.COM

Take Action for Single-Payer Healthcare!

Legislation by Rep. Pramila Jayapal would create a single-payer system, "expanded and improved Medicare for All."

If you don't see your Representative listed as a co-sponsor below, make sure to call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 to be connected to your Rep and ask them to co-sponsor H.R. 1976! Sen. Bernie Sanders's companion Medicare for All bill will be introduced later in the session.

121 Current Co-Sponsors of H.R. 1976 (by last name):

Rep. Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12]
Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]
Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]
Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8]
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]
Rep. Bowman, Jamaal [D-NY-16]
Rep. Boyle, Brendan F. [D-PA-2]
Rep. Brown, Anthony G. [D-MD-4]
Rep. Brown, Shontel M. [D-OH-11]
Rep. Bush, Cori [D-MO-1]
Rep. Carbajal, Salud O. [D-CA-24]
Rep. Cardenas, Tony [D-CA-29]
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]
Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-8]
Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick, Sheila [D-FL-20]
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. Cleaver, Emanuel [D-MO-5]
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]
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. Doggett, Lloyd [D-TX-35]
Rep. Doyle, Michael F. [D-PA-18]
Rep. Escobar, Veronica [D-TX-16]
Rep. Espallat, Adriano [D-NY-13]
Rep. Frankel, Lois [D-FL-21]
Rep. Gallego, Ruben [D-AZ-7]
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]
Rep. Garcia, Jesus G. "Chuy" [D-IL-4]
Rep. Gomez, Jimmy [D-CA-34]
Rep. Green, Al [D-TX-9]
Rep. Grijalva, Raul M. [D-AZ-3]

Rep. Harder, Josh [D-CA-10]
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]
Rep. Hayes, Jahana [D-CT-5]
Rep. Higgins, Brian [D-NY-26]
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]
Rep. Jacobs, Sara [D-CA-53]
Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]
Rep. Jeffries, Hakeem S. [D-NY-8]
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]
Rep. Jones, Mondaire [D-NY-17]
Rep. Kahele, Kai'i [D-HI-2]
Rep. Keating, William R. [D-MA-9]
Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2]
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]
Rep. Kildee, Daniel T. [D-MI-5]
Rep. Kirkpatrick, Ann [D-AZ-2]
Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]
Rep. Lawrence, Brenda L. [D-MI-14]
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]
Rep. Leger Fernandez, Teresa [D-NM-3]
Rep. Levin, Andy [D-MI-9]
Rep. Levin, Mike [D-CA-49]
Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33]
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]
Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-12]
Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]
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. Mfume, Kweisi [D-MD-7]
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10]
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]
Rep. Neguse, Joe [D-CO-2]
Rep. Newman, Marie [D-IL-3]
Rep. Norcross, Donald [D-NJ-1]
Rep. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]
Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, Alexandria [D-NY-14]
Rep. Omar, Ilhan [D-MN-5]
Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]
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. Porter, Katie [D-CA-45]
Rep. Pressley, Ayanna [D-MA-7]
Rep. Price, David E. [D-NC-4]
Rep. Quigley, Mike [D-IL-5]
Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]
Rep. Roybal-Allard, Lucille [D-CA-40]
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]
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. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]
Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9]
Rep. Speier, Jackie [D-CA-14]
Rep. Stansbury, Melanie Ann [D-NM-1]
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. Tlaib, Rashida [D-MI-13]
Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20]
Rep. Torres, Ritchie [D-NY-15]

Rep. Trahan, Lori [D-MA-3]
Rep. Vargas, Juan [D-CA-51]
Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33]
Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]
Rep. Waters, Maxine [D-CA-43]
Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]
Rep. Wild, Susan [D-PA-7]
Rep. Williams, Nikema [D-GA-5]
Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]
Rep. Yarmuth, John A. [D-KY-3]

MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT 2021



CALL NOW: 202-224-3121

The Road to 218+51

Healthcare-NOW took a deep dive on the demographics of the districts we've won - and those that remain - and discovered that the unprecedented support for Medicare for All we've seen over the past several years has come disproportionately from densely urban districts, solidly Democratic districts, communities of color, and lower-income districts. For the remainder, our movement will need to organize and win in suburban, ex-urban, and rural districts, as well as swing districts and whiter and wealthier communities. Check out our full video analysis: <http://bit.ly/roadto218>

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