

Everybody In!

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Please Support Our Emergency Fundraising Drive!

By *Ibrahima Sankare*

Healthcare-NOW's individual donations have fallen by almost 50% since the pandemic began, so we have launched an emergency fundraising drive for the remainder of 2022! Your contribution helps support ambitious campaigns to build our collective power such as the 2022 Healthcare Census, the Patients Over Profits Pledge campaign, and a leadership development program to support new M4A organizers.

We do not receive corporate donations or large contributions from wealthy donors, so we are funded primarily by more than 1,500 individual donors like you! We greatly appreciate your past donations and we now need your renewed support which is all the more important in this election season as we fight for Medicare for All.

Please donate today to help us continue to grow the movement: <https://bit.ly/givehcn>

Interview: Donna Smith and the Road from SiCKO to M4A Organizer



Donna Smith (left) and Healthcare-NOW founder Marilyn Clement (right) listen to speakers during a stop in Chicago as part of the 2007 Healthcare-NOW bus tour.

Donna Smith is a long time activist and organizer for social justice through Medicare for All. She and her husband of 46 years, Larry, have six grown children, 15 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. They live in Denver, Colorado.

Healthcare-NOW: You and Larry were featured in SiCKO, which felt like a turning point for the Medicare for All movement, but must have been for you personally as well! How did the film impact your life?

Donna Smith: It is difficult to put into words what allowing our story to be told in SiCKO meant to us. Of course, the immediate attention was nice, yet being in a Michael Moore film literally blew up my career dreams. I had

been a journalist, and that meant the world to me. The film also did not in any way solve our health care access and expense issues. In fact, we almost lost our health insurance coverage less than a year after the film was being made. On the plus side, we met so many incredible people — including Marilyn Clement, founder of Healthcare-NOW, just days after the film premiere. Dignity helps heal the wounds heaped on us by the health care system. Without Healthcare-NOW, I'm not sure I would have been on 14 Medicare-for-All bus tours with movement partners or flown more than 250,000 miles to 48 states to speak and educate on Medicare for All.

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Donna Smith... from page 1

HCN: What role did Healthcare-NOW play in your life story, after SiCKO was released?

DS: Healthcare-NOW was the conduit for me to become at all engaged and respected in the movement for single-payer. Marilyn Clement encouraged me to write for the newsletter and the website before anyone else really listened to my written voice. She was present on the day I testified to Congress and the House Judiciary Committee, and she introduced me to media friends, like Laura Flanders and Thom Hartmann who then had programs on Air America. She also helped connect me to Progressive Democrats

of America's Tim Carpenter. Though both of these movement leaders and consummate organizers have passed now, we might have been forgotten in the early weeks after the film was released without the touch of these special people. Eventually I would go to work for National Nurses United/California Nurses association where I had so much interaction with people and made friends all across the globe who are still my friends and extended family.

HCN: SiCKO was filmed 15 years ago. How has the Medicare for All movement, and the political landscape for M4A, changed since then?

DS: The Medicare for all movement

has broadened and expanded through the work of hundreds of thousands of activists and organizers, some of whom were attached to a few organizations, including Healthcare-NOW, that worked together to support Congressional efforts to pass Medicare for All. Though the Affordable Care Act was a long way from our goal, the movement was heard and felt as the way we could truly achieve any level of health care justice. The movement is bigger, stronger and more relevant than ever as we faced the COVID19 pandemic and now as we will undoubtedly face more health care nightmares. Achieving Medicare for All is now more popular than ever and more achievable if we keep up the pressure. **HCN**

Races to Watch

Sofia Sepulveda

As the midterm elections are gearing up, we at Healthcare-NOW are watching them VERY closely, especially the races of those who won their primary with a progressive message such as Medicare for All.

If you live in any of these districts, here are the races to watch:

RACES FOR SENATE

California - Alex Padilla
Kentucky - Charles Booker
Tennessee - Marquita Bradshaw
Wisconsin - Mandela Barnes
Vermont - Peter Welch

New Mexico D1 - Melanie Stansbury
New York D12 - Jerry Nadler
New York D14 - Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
New York D16 - Jamaal Bowman
Oregon D5 - Jamie McLeod-Skinner
Oregon D6 - Andrea Salinas
Pennsylvania D12 - Summer Lee
Rhode Island D2 - Robert Segal
Texas 35 - Greg Casar
Texas D30 - Jasmine Crockett
Vermont AL - Becca Balint
Wisconsin D2 - Mark Pocan
Washington State D07 - Pramila Jayapal

RACES FOR CONGRESS

Florida D10 - Maxwell Frost
Illinois D1 - Jonathan Jackson
Illinois D3 - Delia Ramirez
Massachusetts D7 - Ayanna Pressley
Michigan D12 - Rashida Tlaib
Minnesota D5 - Ilhan Omar
Missouri D1 - Cori Bush

So please make sure to go vote — and bring your friends and family. Election day is November 8, 2022. **HCN**

Tell our Politicians to take the Patients Over Profits Pledge

by Benjamin Day

Healthcare-NOW has teamed up with National Nurses United and People's Action to launch the "Patients Over Profits" campaign, asking candidates across the country to pledge that they will not accept donations from pharmaceutical companies, health insurers, for-profit hospitals, and others attempting to undermine Medicare for All.

The campaign is based on the successful "No Fossil Fuel Money" pledge, which has made it toxic for elected officials (particularly Democrats) to be associated with the fossil fuel lobby.

ANY candidate can take the Patients Over Profits Pledge, whether they are running for city or town office, the state legislature, or Congress. Join the campaign here:

<https://patientsoverprofits.org>

Is Dr. Oz the Future of Republican Health Reform?

by Benjamin Day

In one of the most watched Senate races during this mid-term election, celebrity television personality “Dr. Oz” is running as the Republican candidate against Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman for Pennsylvania’s open Senate seat.

Dr. Mehmet Oz’s career was built by recommending health products on his show, which reaches millions of daytime television viewers, in exchange for kick-backs from product manufacturers. In short, the Dr. Oz Show was a long direct-to-consumer advertisement, fashioned into an entertainment product..

Oz’s credibility started to unravel in 2014. A team of medical researchers at the University of Alberta analyzed product and health recommendations made on the Dr. Oz Show, and checked them against medical evidence available at the time. They found that less than half of Oz’s recommendations (46%) were backed by any evidence; 39% had no evidence to back them, and 15% were contradicted by available evidence.

That same year, the Senate’s subcommittee on Consumer Protection called Oz to testify at a hearing on false and deceptive advertising for weight-loss products. Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) challenged Oz for his endorsement of raspberry ketones, garcinia cambogia, and green bean coffee extract as “miracle” weight loss and fat-burning products, even though there is no evidence for these claims. Oz admitted that the products he endorses as a public physician have no scientific backing: “I actually do personally believe in the items I talk about on the show. I passionately study them. I recognize they don’t have the scientific muster to present as fact but nevertheless I would give my audience the advice I give my family all the time.”

Things took a turn for the strange when the COVID-19 pandemic broke out. A House investigative Committee has shown that Dr. Oz strongly pushed the Trump administration to approve the emergency use of hydroxychloroquine for treatment of COVID symptoms. He appears to have played a key role in getting the FDA to issue a controversial emergency use authorization for the drug. Three months later, the FDA was forced to revoke its authorization when multiple studies showed that hydroxychloroquine was ineffective and potentially dangerous for COVID patients.

In April this year, Trump endorsed Oz’s Senate campaign over his Republican primary competitor Dave McCormick. The support of Trump’s base was enough to ensure his victory in the primary, but clearly not enough to mount a credible campaign in the general elections. As of late August, every poll has Democrat John Fetterman leading Oz in the race, by anywhere from +4 to +18 percentage points.

Things get truly wild when we look at the debate over healthcare reform that has played out between Oz and Fetterman in the general election, though. Oz’s campaign ran a bizarre attack ad against Fetterman, in which a cartoon depiction of Fetterman’s head flips open, and his “ideas” come floating out, including a giant bong, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez holding a sign that says “Free Healthcare for Everyone” while the voiceover narrator says “Socialized Medicine? Look at these crazy ideas!” However, Fetterman has not actually committed to supporting Medicare for All legislation yet, settling for vague promises of universal healthcare.

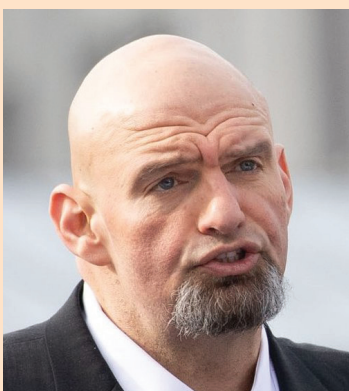
What’s the problem with Democrats committing to goals like universal healthcare, without backing the policies that get us there, like Medicare for All? You can start with Dr. Oz’s own healthcare policy solution, which he published in a 2020 Forbes op-ed: Oz also claims to advocate for universal healthcare, through what he describes as “Medicare Advantage for All.” He would fund it through a 20% payroll tax split equally between employers and employees, and enrollees would then choose between publicly funded but privately administered health insurance plans like Medicare Advantage.

Does this sound familiar? Oz’s health reform plan is almost identical to the plan that Kamala Harris unveiled during the 2019 Presidential elections, when she was attempting to distinguish herself from Bernie Sanders. In fact, it has become vogue among centrist Democrats to claim that we can achieve universal healthcare by just “building on the ACA,” without having to take on private insurers.

Since the failed attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act, Republicans have floundered without a vision for healthcare reform. It forces us to wonder, is Dr. Oz’s attempt to co opt “universal healthcare” while preserving profits in the industry, the future of the GOP? If so, corporate Democrats have certainly opened the door for them. **HCN**



Dr. Mehmet Oz



Lt. Gov. John Fetterman

Take Action for Single-Payer Healthcare!

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

If you don't see your Representative or either of your Senators listed as co-sponsors below, make sure to call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 to be connected to your Rep and Senators and ask them to co-sponsor H.R.1976 or S. 4204!

14 Current Co-Sponsors of S. 4204 (by state):

Sen. Padilla, Alex [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. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [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. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]

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. Espaillat, 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]
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Rep. Jones, Mondaire [D-NY-17]
Rep. Kahele, Kaiali'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]
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Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]
Rep. Leger Fernandez, Teresa [D-NM-3]
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Rep. Levin, Mike [D-CA-49]
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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]
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Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]
Rep. Mfume, Kweisi [D-MD-7]
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Rep. Neguse, Joe [D-CO-2]
Rep. Newman, Marie [D-IL-3]
Rep. Norcross, Donald [D-NJ-1]

Del. 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]
Del. 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]
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Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]
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Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]
Rep. Yarmuth, John A. [D-KY-3]

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