

Talking Points: Unions Bring Healthcare to All Workers

- ✓ All Michigan family members deserve healthcare coverage, both as active employees and as retirees. That's what the members of Michigan's unions think and continue to fight for.
- ✓ Unions believe no one's healthcare is safe until everyone's healthcare is safe.
- ✓ Unions have been fighting for health care for decades. In fact, we supported and fought for universal health care coverage after World War II as part of the Fair Deal agenda and lost out to Big Business. When the nation then adopted an employer-based health care system, it was union members who fought in contract after contract to improve health care benefits and thus raised the standards for the nation. Today, the 2008 elections offer a unique window—Americans are ready as never before to fix our health care system.
- ✓ That may take a national plan. It may take a state referendum that provides coverage for everyone in Michigan. But one thing's for sure: It will certainly take everyone working together.
- ✓ Our goal is to win secure, high-quality health care for all. We'll do that by mobilizing and educating our members, building key alliances with businesses and progressive groups and making the 2008 elections a mandate on health care reform.
- ✓ We want to work with you. You don't have to be a union member. We are fighting for a unique American plan for health care reform that:
 - Controls rising and irrational costs.
 - Provides comprehensive, high-quality health care to all.
 - Gives every family the opportunity and the responsibility for preventive care.
 - Preserves the right to choose and use your own doctor.
 - Asks our government to play a strong role in restoring balance to the system—curbing greed and incompetence and ensuring more fairness and efficiency.
 - Lowers employer costs and, in return, asks them to pay their fair share, along with government and individuals.
 - Builds on what's best about American health care while drawing from what works in other countries.
- ✓ We believe that government, employers and individuals all have a role to play in a system that provides real health security, choice and high-quality health care for all. With American ingenuity and input from all Americans, we believe it possible, even necessary, to craft a uniquely American plan for health care reform.
- ✓ We realize that there is no real chance that meaningful health care reform will be enacted while this president is still in office. Rather than fight a losing battle, we are mobilizing a 1-million-member mobilization team of activists and working with a broad group of allies to keep comprehensive health care reform at the top of the political agenda in 2008 and to ensure that the real work of fixing the health care system actually gets done after the elections.
- ✓ There are many proposals out there, and we are ready to work with anyone to build a plan that meets the goal of secure, high-quality health care for all Americans.
- ✓ In addition to talking to our members, this campaign will be talking to allies, including not only other progressive organizations but also, crucially, employers. Our employers that have been providing good health benefits have a real stake in reforming health care and must be part of the debate and the solution.