

## GUIDELINES FOR THANKSGIVING/DECEMBER MOBILIZATION ACTIONS:

Dear Friends,

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the Mobilization for Health Care for All campaign to focus on the Senate. This campaign is being designed to build support for the Sanders amendments and to encourage senators to vote “yes” on the amendments.

Senator Sanders intends to offer two changes to the senate health legislation. One will take the form of an amendment that will substitute single payer language into the bill, effectively making it a single payer bill. The other may or may not be in the form of an amendment but we know it will make changes that assist states in creating their own state-based single payer health systems.

We anticipate that the senators will return to their home districts during the week of Thanksgiving and that when they return to Washington in December, there will be several weeks of intense debate on the senate floor before a vote occurs.

We have divided this campaign into **2 phases**:

### 1. **Letter delivery:**

We ask that groups of constituents visit their senators’ home offices during the week of Thanksgiving to deliver a letter asking the senator to support the Sanders legislation. We will provide the text of the letter to you and other information that will be helpful. You can find information about your senators’ offices here: [http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm).

You will probably want to contact the office first and find out when they will be open. You can request a meeting with the health staffer, legislative director or district office head, but if they can’t meet with you, you can still stop by. Invite others to join you so that you go as a delegation.

We want to emphasize the seriousness of the issue. Our demand is one of life or death for thousands of people in this country. Organizers should aim to reach out to diverse constituencies in your community to deliver the letter of demands. You can also include petitions or post cards if your group has them, but the focus should be on the seriousness of the health care crisis and the abuse of the American people by this system. You can make signs that cite from the many statistics that show the severity of the crisis, and demand a real solution:

- 45,000 people die each year because they can’t get healthcare
- 47 million people have no health insurance
- 50 million people are underinsured

- The U.S. ranks 37<sup>th</sup> in Healthcare Quality and Fairness
- Healthcare costs account for 17% of the U.S. economy
- Medicare for All
- S 703

When you deliver the letter, ask if your senator will promise to vote yes on the Sanders legislation. If you can, document the response in some way, such as a video or written agreement. If your senator (or staff) gives a resounding “Yes!,” then thank him/her profusely and let them know you’ll be watching for the vote.

If the senator (or staff) says that they don’t know or that they will not support Sanders, then let them know that you will return on December 10<sup>th</sup> for an answer (or a change of heart).

We will assist you with a press release to announce this visit and you may want to hold a press conference afterwards if you think that local press will attend in order to report the outcome of your visit.

## **2. Direct Action:**

We ask that your group return on December 10<sup>th</sup>, which is the 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is known as Human Rights Day. Article 25 of this document, which was signed by the United States in the United States upon the encouragement of Eleanor Roosevelt, states that people have a right to medical care. See <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/> for more information.

On December 10<sup>th</sup> there will be actions around the country at senate offices and an action in Washington, D.C. We request that you again ask if the senator will support the Sanders legislation. If the senate staff says that they do not know the answer, then you will sit-in and wait for a meeting/phone call with the senator in order to get a response. If the senator/staff say that they will not support the Sanders legislation, then you will sit-in in protest.

You will want to organize your action so that some participants agree to sit-in and risk arrest and others agree to support with a legal picket outside. The focus of this action should be designed to highlight the fact that it is Human Rights Day.

We will assist with press releases, contacting media and providing information about nonviolent civil disobedience if you require these.

More details can be found in the Action Guide that is being updated for the December actions.

Please contact us if you are interested in leading an action near you. Go to [www.mobilizeforhealthcare.org](http://www.mobilizeforhealthcare.org) for more information or email [info@mobilizeforhealthcare.org](mailto:info@mobilizeforhealthcare.org).

Thank you!

Katie, Kevin and Margaret