

# **National Call-In Days on Health Care Reform**

## **Mobilizing for a Robust Public Option**

### **September 10 – December 1, 2009**

Between September 10th and December 1st, we want to join with others to change public opinion and to ensure the inclusion of a public option in the healthcare bill. To do this, we need as many people to call their congress representatives to push for the public option. Here's how:

1. **GATHER People Together:** Hold a community call-in night at a community center, your organization's office, or at your home.
2. **CALL Your Reps:** Organize large numbers of people to call their Representatives and Senators at this free number **1-877-264-HCAN (4226)** to ask for them to give strong support to a public option.

#### **WHY A DAYS OF ACTION?**

**Health care reform is of extreme importance to anyone living in the United States.**

The current plan being proposed by the House of Representatives, which would include a public option that would greatly expand coverage to the uninsured, and offer an option for people who lose coverage is currently under threat by conservative members of Congress, the insurance industry, the pharmaceutical industry, and a few powerful corporate executives (including the leadership at Whole Foods and AT&T).

The worst and most frightening aspect of this debate has been the dis-information campaign waged by the Republican party, conservative cable talk show hosts, and the organizing of opposition at congressional townhall meetings. Rather than producing a debate about healthcare, and what is proposed in the reform, these townhall meetings have produced a space for white supremacy to be expressed by people angry that Obama won the election, the associated the public option with racially-coded "welfare," and fears that undocumented immigrants should or could get access to healthcare.

**Health care reform is of particular importance to LGBT folks, people of color, poor and working class people, and immigrants.** As Congress and the Obama Administration undertake reform of the American healthcare system to ensure that all Americans have equitable access to the full continuum of health promotion, prevention, and treatment services, we must be sure to effectively address the needs of distinct populations, especially those with demonstrated health disparities.

**In addition, health disparities must be addressed across multiple communities rather than in isolation.** Many members of the LGBT community are members of other communities that also face substantial health disparities and are thus vulnerable to cumulative negative outcomes. For example, an African-American gay man will face disparities common to the African-American community as well as those suffered by the LGBT community, and a transgender Spanish-speaking woman, regardless of her sexual

orientation, must navigate multiple instances of discrimination based on language, ethnicity, and gender.

A public option that would be available to people most discriminated against in the health care system is necessary, and immigrants, people of color, and LGBT people should organize to help save the public option in the current legislation.