

The American Health Care Crisis

The greatest impediment to an effective health care system is the private insurance industry. By using health care as an opportunity for profit, the insurance industry forces health care providers to focus on cutting costs, and not on providing the best health care options to patients. Meanwhile, insurance companies continue to raise insurance rates to levels that many individuals and employers can no longer afford, as they conspire to restrict coverage based on pre-existing conditions and the like. As a result, millions of Americans are simply not covered by any insurance, which ultimately raises costs for all health care consumers.

The United States is the only industrialized nation that does not have a government-based health insurance plan that covers all citizens. While many proponents of private-insurance based health care decry national health insurance, we need to be clear about the consequences of for-profit health care:

- Over 18,000 Americans die each year because they did not receive required medical treatment. That's over six 9/11's. Every year.
- The United States has the highest infant mortality rate and lowest life expectancy of any industrialized country.
- Americans pay more per capita for health care than citizens of any other industrialized country

Where is that money going? It is going to enrich the CEOs and stockholders of the parasitic private health insurance corporations. It is clear that health care for Americans is not the priority of the current health care system we invest in. So how can we spend our health care dollars to serve us better (and more cheaply!)

Health Care Reform in New Mexico

Right here in New Mexico, we have the opportunity to stand as leaders, at the forefront of national health care reform. The Governor's Health Care Task Force has evaluated a number of reform proposals for efficiency and effectiveness. Only one of these proposed plans, the **Health Security Act** completely removes private insurance from the health care equation, while retaining complete consumer choice of health care provider, and reducing the cost of health care in New Mexico by hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

It would seem obvious to the health care consumer (me and you) that the **Health Security Act** is by far the best choice, not only for New Mexicans now, but as a model for the entire nation. However, because private insurance companies stand to lose their business, they will fight this proposal tooth and nail. Governor Richardson has already committed to giving private insurers a voice in health care reform in New Mexico, effectively nullifying the Health Security Act with a confusing amalgam of various reform proposals which **does not** remove profit from the system. The State Legislature also will be pressured to resist passage of this potentially landmark bill.

This is a moral crisis, as well as a physical and economic one. It is about whether health care is a right or a privilege. I stand in support of the **Health Security Act**. It is the right proposal for New Mexicans at the right time. As your Congressional Representative, I will lobby **in the streets** for passage of the bill in the State Legislature, and I will fight tirelessly for effective national health care reform that takes the profit out of the system and leaves it in *your* pocket.

Mr. President, Madame Speaker, End This War NOW!

The ongoing and illegal occupation of Iraq has reached the brink of total disaster, both for the American and Iraqi people. With American deaths nearing 3,700 and scores of Iraqis dying daily in sectarian violence, how can the Democratic Congress continue to justify their support of this war by giving the Bush administration blank check after blank check of supplemental spending? On top of this, the Democratic Congress just approved the largest Pentagon budget ever, over \$460 billion, which includes no funding for the Iraqi occupation. The long- and short-term costs, social and economic, are simply devastating, and we must demand that Democrats vote NO! NO! NO! to any further spending, and use the existing funds to bring American troops out of Iraq immediately.

This war and occupation has cost US taxpayers close to a trillion dollars. Imagine how else that tax money might have been spent – on education, on health care, on real security. The truth is, though, that this military action was never about bringing democracy to Iraq (they don't want it), or stabilizing the region (it already was) – it has always been about oil and profit. President Eisenhower warned us long ago about the grip that the “military-industrial complex” was strengthening on our political and economic systems, and those fears have come to fruition in Iraq.

We must resist attempts from the right-wing to denounce us for “lack of patriotism” when we speak honestly about our culture of militarism and our reckless, deceptive, and criminal leadership. *(continued)*

Aside from draining our national treasury, the four years of war in Iraq have:

- Destroyed US credibility worldwide
- Violated both US and International law
- Increased worldwide terrorism
- Diverted funds necessary for real national security
- Caused sectarian violence and civil war
- Killed hundreds of thousands of Iraqis and created over a million refugees

I am antiwar, and I pledge to you three things when I am your Congressional Representative:

1. I will do everything in my power to immediately withdraw the US from Iraq and South Asia.
2. I will do everything in my power to end the repeated pattern of US instigated war and invasion worldwide.
3. I will reduce military spending.

Your Vote is Your Voice

In a democracy, the last thing we should ever privatize is our political voice. Yet all across the country, state lawmakers have deemed it prudent to turn our voice over to partisan private companies whose job it is to collect, secure, and count our votes. The power of the vote belongs to the people and the people alone, and lawmakers have grievously erred in their judgment that electronic voting systems cannot and will not be used for partisan purposes.

I advocate nothing less than a return to 100% paper and pencil ballots, hand-counted under bipartisan scrutiny. I will also demand that national voting days are given their worthy status as national holidays. To not implement this

measure is a continued act of class warfare. Everybody's political voice is of equal value.

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About Me

I am a regular citizen who has decided to take a personal stand against a national government that is in dereliction of duty.

I have been a high school mathematics teacher since 1999, after I graduated from the College of Santa Fe with my degree in Education. I also have a B.A. in Political Science and a Master's in Education, both from the University of Washington.

I became active in the antiwar movement during my second year in college when Bush 41 invaded Iraq. Since then I have participated in many progressive activist causes. I am a proud union member, as well as a member of the ACLU and the Green Party (though I am running in this Congressional race as a registered Democrat.)

I believe passionately in service to my country, which is why I chose the teaching profession. I want to continue to serve my country and my fellow citizens as a fearless voice of truth and justice in Washington. My inspiration is drawn from the likes of Bernie Sanders and Paul Wellstone.

My wife and I were married in Albuquerque in 1998. She is also a public school teacher. We have two small children, and we want to leave for them a country and a world in better shape than we found them. That opportunity exists. Let's take it.

Sincerely, and in Peace,

Jason J. Call

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ELECT

truth, for a change

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Sane Foreign Policy

Alternative/Renewable Energy

Out of NAFTA/CAFTA/WTO

Pro-Union, Pro-Labor

Lobbying Reform

Drug Law Reform

Fair and Progressive Tax Reform

