

HEALTHCARE IS A HUMAN RIGHT CAMPAIGN

*** MEDIA ADVISORY *** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

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Note: Healthcare Is A Human Right Campaign (HCHR) leaders are available for TV and Radio interviews prior to the event. There will be creative healthcare related visuals and signs as part of this public presentation.

Huge Statehouse Event to Kickoff New Legislative Session Thousands of Vermonters Say: Healthcare Is A Human Right

WHEN: 12 noon, Wednesday, January 6, 2010

WHERE: Cedar Creek Room, Vermont Statehouse, Montpelier

WHAT: Postcards signed by over four thousand Vermonters calling for action of single payer healthcare bills and supporting healthcare as a human right will be delivered to the leadership of the Vermont Legislature. Receiving the cards will be Speaker of the House Shap Smith, Senate Pro Tem Peter Shumlin, and Senator Doug Racine and Rep. Steve Maier, who both chair of the Healthcare Committees in the Senate and House.

Statewide leaders of the HCHR Campaign will be part of the presentation, including:

- Susan Lucas, RN, President of the Copley Nurses Union, UNAP Local 5109
- Jennifer Henry, RN, President of the Fletcher Allen nurses union & United Professions of VT/AFT
- Martha Allen, President of the Vermont NEA
- Sarah Launderville, Executive Director, Vermont Center of Independent Living

BACKGROUND: In 2008, the Vermont Workers' Center launched the Healthcare Is A Human Right Campaign and on May 1, 2009 organized a "Healthcare Is A Human Right" Rally at the Statehouse which drew over twelve hundred participants and was the largest weekday rally in the state's capitol history. Over the past few months the campaign has

organized a series of nine People's Forums on Healthcare across the state with over 70 state legislators and more than 800 people participating to date. At the December 1st Chittenden County People's Forum in Colchester, Senator Racine announced that joint hearings on single payer bills H.100 and S.88 will begin on January 12 and the VWC is organizing hundreds of people to attend. On January 10, the last People's Forum on Healthcare is being held in Vergennes for Addison County legislators, including Rep. Steve Maier, Health Committee Chair.

MORE INFO:

- "VT. health reform tops January Agenda" VT Press Bureau
<http://www.timesargus.com/article/RH/20091214/NEWS03/912140360>
- "To Your Health" 12/22/09 Seven Days column by Shay Totten
<http://www.7dvt.com/2009your-health>
- Dec 10: Human Rights Day Report with Nurses & Sen. Racine:
<http://www.workerscenter.org/node/190>
- Sen. Racine Announces Hearings on S.88/H.100:
<http://www.workerscenter.org/node/185>
- Rutland Herald Editorial endorses HCHR Campaign:
<http://www.workerscenter.org/node/138>
- Musicians launch benefit CD for HCHR Campaign:
<http://vermontcareforall.org/>
- VPR's All Things Considered with Scott Ainslie, musician and HCHR leader. Link to listen
http://www.vpr.net/flash/audio_player/audio_player.php?id=29863
- Dec 5: The Vermont NEA, the State's Largest Union Gets Behind HCHR Campaign <http://www.workerscenter.org/node/189>
- Healthcare Is A Human Right Campaign:
www.workerscenter.org/healthcare
- Summary of bills S.88/H.100: <http://www.workerscenter.org/node/168>
- Burlington Free Press My Turn "Vermont Must Lead The Way"
<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20091202/OPINION02/912020315/1006/OPINION/My-Turn-Vermont-must-lead-on-health-care>
- Vermont Public Radio Report on HCHR:
<http://www.workerscenter.org/node/134>

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