



The Voice of Illinois Consumers

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Dear Friend in Faith,

For years, the Faith Caucus of Campaign for Better Health Care has asked you to participate in a “Sound the Alarm!” observance to call attention to the 1.8 million people in Illinois without access to affordable, quality health care.

This year, we thought we would be sending an entirely different message. Instead of “sounding the alarm,” we thought we would be inviting you to join us in sounding shouts of joy and celebration for the major health care reform which is now law and is beginning to be implemented in Illinois.

But, unfortunately, we can’t just celebrate. Once again, we must “Sound the Alarm!” because our elected officials need to implement components of the law *now*.

Reflect for a moment on what reform means. Young adults can stay on their parents’ plan until the age of 26. Insurers can no longer deny children health care due to pre-existing conditions or take away someone’s coverage the moment he or she becomes sick. Seniors now have help with prescription drug costs. Reform provides support for small businesses, slows the rise of health care costs, and lowers the deficit.

This March, especially the weekend of **March 18-20**, we are asking you to participate in any of the followings ways:

Get Involved!

- (1) Ring a bell, “sounding the alarm” to share news of the benefits of the new law. Distribute the enclosed fact sheet to let your community know about new coverage, consumer protections, prevention health, and more.
- (2) Host a worship service/event or pray that the new law is successfully implemented in Illinois so that millions of people can see reform’s fully realized: affordable health insurance for them and their family.
- (3) Order our Celebration Postcards to lift your faithful voice in protection of these new benefits and to give thanks for what has already been accomplished.
- (4) Support us with your gifts. We need your financial contribution to widen our educational efforts to other members of the faith community.

Please join us as people of faith in a different way of sounding off – in celebration and thanksgiving, as well as with concern and alarm – about health care for all. Materials are enclosed to help you.

Contact us at 312-913-9449, faithcaucus@cbhconline.org, or sign up online at www.cbhconline.org/faith

On behalf of the Faith Caucus,

Rev. Dr. Larry Greenfield, American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago
Nelvie Anderson
Ken Aud, United Congregations of Metro-East
Claudia Austin, Ecumenical Action, Church Women United
Karen Metcalf, Progressive Action for the Common Good
Sister Glenna Czachor, Wheaton Franciscans
Jennifer DeLeon, Lutheran Social Services of IL, ELCA
Rev. Dr. Richard Ellerbrake, IL South Conference UCC
Rev. Dr. Shirley Fleming, United Church of Christ
Bishop Warren Freiheit, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
Laura Dean Friedrich, Protestants for the Common Good
Rev. Doris Green, AIDS Foundation Chicago
Paulina Guzman, Access Community Health Network
Millie Hankla, Church Women United of Illinois
Ahlam Jbara, Council of Islamic Organization of Greater Chicago

Elaine Bailey Johnson, World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women North America Midwest Region
Rev Gary McCants, St Paul AME Church
Sh. Kifah Mustapha, The Mosque Foundation
Beth Najberg, Member of Union of Reform Judaism
Mohamad Nasir, Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago
Patti Polk, Church Women United
Jane Ramsey, Jewish Council on Urban Affairs
Dave Roth, Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois
Rev. Larry Ulrich, Council of Religious Leaders of Metro Chicago
Rev. Walter Wilkins, Board of Church & Society, Illinois Great Rivers Conference, United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Janette C. Wilson, International Sunday School Broadcast Inc.
Bathsheba Wyatt-Draper, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition
Rabbi Michael R. Zedek, Emanuel Congregation
Laura Leon, Campaign for Better Health Care