

## BACKGROUND HISTORY OF HCR4US, 2005 to the Present

"Health Care Reform for the US" (HCR4US) is a network of League members from around the country, whose purpose is to advance the League's position on health care, as articulated in the LWVUS policy book, "Impact on Issues." **The "League position since 1993 calls for "a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes, commonly known as the "single-payer" approach"** (p. 132). The network encourages education and action by local and state Leagues, and advocacy to the national League to pursue "more equitable distribution of [health] services for all Americans," consistent with the LWVUS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion mission.

In 2005, with help from the national Board and staff, founding member Linda Mahan and others from the Larimer County, Colorado LWV established a nationwide mailing list, and named the new network HCR4US. The group's first project was the first LWV Healthcare Caucus at the 2006 national Convention, and it has presented caucuses at each convention since then. It especially supports resolutions and actions for **Improved Medicare for All**, as the program most closely aligned with the League's official goals. In 2015, an official LWV Study of Behavioral Health, carried out by a team in Colorado, called for inclusion of behavior health in the LWVCO position. The study findings were adopted at the state level and then brought to the 2016 national convention, where it was adopted by concurrence.

Network members were first linked in person at conventions and by the League-sponsored email list. They have since transitioned to conference calls and Zoom-type teleconferencing, Leadership for the group is shared. Since 2016, the network has maintained a Google Group, a monthly teleconference focused on Single Payer/M4A, and occasional guest speaker, such as activist-author Wendell Potter, state Senator Jeanne Nicholson, PNHP officer Dr. Claudia Fegan, and UNC professor Ciara Zachary.

The HCR4US network encompasses members in 42 states. Information about the League network and improved Medicare for All can be found on its Healthcare Toolkit <https://lwghealthcarereform.org>, its [Youtube channel](#), and [Twitter feed](#). (It can also be accessed from the League Management site <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/advocacy/toolkit-health-care> .

As of March 2021, HCR4US had approximately 500 League members on the mailing list from the 42 states listed below, and about 120 active participants on the monthly Zoom calls, and other activities such as the Rural Affairs Caucus, a Tutorials committee, and participation in education and advocacy with state and national coalitions for healthcare reform.

We welcome ideas, resources, successes and questions. To contact the group or join it, please use the HCR4US Contact webform <https://tinyurl.com/Contact-LWV-HCR-4US> to be put in touch with the Google Group moderators Linda Mahan (Larimer Cty CO) or Akkana Peck (Los Alamos, NM), and meeting coordinator, Jean Hopkins (VT).

States represented as of 5/2021 include:

Alaska

Arizona

California

Colorado

Florida

Georgia

Idaho

Illinois

Indiana

Kansas

Kentucky

Louisiana

Massachusetts

Michigan

Minnesota

Montana

Nebraska

Nevada

New Mexico

New York

North Carolina

Pennsylvania

Oregon

Texas

Vermont

Washington

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