



HEALTHY PEOPLE



HEALTHY DEMOCRACY

May 27, 2024

LWV Health Care Reform for the US Newsletter

THE BIG ASK: SIGN UP TO HELP in-person or virtually

- ◆ Help us **contact delegates** who already support the Vermont Privatization Concurrence, and
- ◆ Identify **other delegates** we might recruit before convention. Send contact information to [Linda Mahan](#).
- ◆ Assist LWV Vermont at their **Concurrence Caucus** on Friday at 9:30 a.m. Contact [Betty Keller](#).
- ◆ Assist the HCR4US **Storytelling for Advocacy Workshop** on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. Contact [Judy Esterquest](#).
- ◆ Sign up for **HCR4US tabling** during breaks. Contact [Barbara Pearson](#).



Stop the Madness:

VT Concurrence Allows ADVOCACY against Health Care Privatization

It has been said that Medicare Advantage (aka privatized Medicare) represents "the triumph of chicanery over evidence" [American College of Physicians \(ACP, 2020\)](#). The same could be said of the whole privatized healthcare universe.

Anecdotes and studies keep piling up: for-profit healthcare is impossible to navigate, drives families into bankruptcy, forces hospital closures, incentivizes overcharging and drives down quality outcomes, among other evidence of the [fraudulent trickery called out by the ACP](#). Just as dangerous as privatized public safety or environmental protection, privatized health care kills people. The Vermont Concurrence is a critical step the League can take to stand against this madness.

70 state and local leagues have supported adding the Vermont Concurrence to the Convention Agenda (thank you!). While LWVUS called that number "widespread support," the concurrence has not yet been given a secure place on the agenda. We will have another chance to put it there on Friday June 28, when the Convention takes up the "Motion to consider other proposed concurrences."

We can't give up now: your health, your parents' health, your children's health, your community's health are too important.

Here's what you can do to stop the madness between now and the LWVUS Convention:

FRIDAY PLENARY SESSION
Vote to Put the VT Concurrence on the Saturday Agenda to Debate

1. Please contact all the delegates from your state and remind them to support the Vermont Concurrence at the Convention's Friday Plenary **"Motion to Consider Other Proposed Concurrences."**

2. Enthusiastically encourage them to join the "Debate and Vote on Concurrences Considered for Adoption" session on Saturday - and advocate for the Vermont Concurrence!

3. If your local or state League has not yet agreed to support adding the Vermont Concurrence to the Convention agenda, it's not too late to do it. Please ask your League leadership to schedule a time to discuss it, and then let the [Concurrence hotline](#) know the result (either yea or nay).

If you need to refresh your understanding of the Concurrence, please consult the HCR Toolkit, [LWVUS Groups io](#), or email [LWV Vermont](#) with your questions.

One final favor, with our thanks. If anything would prevent you, or a delegate you know, from giving your full-throated support to opening up the privatized health care discussion at the Convention, could you let us know? We'd truly like to understand. *Submitted by Ceil Tilney*

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| <p>NEXT HCR4US MEETING Sunday, June 2 8:00 p.m. ET</p> | <p>Register at https://tinyurl.com/HCR4US-Jun2</p> | <p>TENTATIVE AGENDA: Intros for New Attendees — Announcements Convention Planning — State Reports Newsletter — Break-out Sessions</p> |
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In Case You Missed It

Mar 12: PNHP “[Talking to Conservatives About Single Payer with Joe Jarvis](#)”

May 2: PNHP “[Single Payer 101](#)” a everybody in—nobody out. Dr. Diljeet Singh, PNHP Vice President on the only real solution to our health care crisis

May 8: National Single Payer webinar “[Don’t Bust Up Medicare and Hand It to the States](#)” featured Kay Tillow and Dr. Claire Cohen

May 14 PNHP NY plus 3 doctors unions “[On the Rise: Doctors Unionizing and Organizing for Single Payer](#)”

Upcoming

May 28-June 1: Healthcare-Now Medicare for All Strategy Conference “Healthcare Beyond the Ballot Box.” Presentations, interactive sessions, and workshops focused on how we fight for Medicare for All in 2024 and how to prepare for after the election. Virtual. Register [here](#).

June 3, 8:00 p.m. ET: PNHP webinar “Taking Advantage: How Corporate Health Insurers Harm American Seniors” Guest Sen. Elizabeth Warren plus patients, physicians, and Medicare advocates discuss how private Medicare plans cause real harm to seniors and people with disabilities. Register [here](#).

June 5, 7:00 p.m. ET: LWV VT hosts an online forum on the proposed concurrence with Vermont’s new Position on Privatization. Plan to share the recording with other delegates. Register [here](#).

Websites

HCR4US Youtube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/LWVHealthCareReform>

HCR4US Web-Contact Form:

tinyurl.com/Contact-LWV-HCR-4US

HCR4US Google Drive:

<https://tinyurl.com/HCR4US-Minutes-etc>

HCR4US Toolkit:

<https://lwvhealthcarereform.org>

HCR4US : Dedicated to educating and mobilizing League members to work toward legislation that enacts the goals of our LWVUS health care position

Newsletter Committee: Barbara Pearson, Jon Li, Candy Birch, Ceil Tilney

Powerful tool can determine the cost savings of universal health care

By updating the LWV Health Care Position in 2022, the League approved a policy to achieve the goals of universal, high quality, and equitable health care -- adoption of a single-payer healthcare program.

Single-payer health care has solid public support. But many ask: “*Could we afford it?*” Economists have concluded that single-payer (SP) financing would save money compared to what we currently pay. The math is straightforward: current payments vs. SP costs, which can be estimated with reasonable accuracy.

For society as a whole, studies have repeatedly confirmed that SP financing could save hundreds of billions of dollars annually, freeing up financial resources to support other essential social programs. For individuals, that leads to the question: “*How much will the single-payer program cost me and my family?*”

A team led by health economist Dr. Jim Kahn of Physicians for a National Health Program has developed [a new calculator](#) (with support from Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal’s “Medicare for All PAC”) to quickly answer the question. It’s available free and online [HERE](#), works on computers and mobile devices, and only requires entering a few items that are confidential and anonymous. Completion takes but a few minutes and nearly all users (except the ultra-wealthy) will notice substantial savings.

The Calculator illustrates a remarkable fact: **We the People can get more by paying less!** It simply requires a transformation of healthcare financing based on a single-payer policy, as envisioned by the League.

Once you’ve explored your potential savings, we encourage spreading the word throughout LWV and the general public. The [Calculator team welcomes invitations](#) to join group discussions on the cost of health care. Submitted by [Dr. Henry Abrons](#)

MEDICARE FOR ALL!

HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS CALCULATOR

Find out how much you would save under Medicare for All!

Convention Workshop: Moving Hearts, Changing Minds

A story is how we capture the heart--and conscience--of our audience, whether it’s our legislator or our neighbor. If it’s a story for advocacy, it needs to inspire others to action. That is why HCR4US’ Judy Esterquest’s Convention Workshop to “move hearts” is so important. Join this interactive session both in-person or virtually to help us all sharpen the impact of our own stories (**Saturday, June 29, 6:30- 7:30 pm ET.**) To prepare the ground, we recommend a short [video](#) with **Marshall Ganz**, who taught a Public Narrative class at Harvard’s Kennedy School for many years.

Stories empower you and give you credibility as someone with direct experience of an issue. The key is to select vivid “moments,” so your listener is right there with you, your challenges and your choices. If your listeners can **feel** your values and your hope, you can inspire them to join you. All that in ONE-MINUTE.