

MISSION

To educate and mobilize League members to work toward legislation and other reforms that enact the goals of our LWVUS health care position, with a strong focus on [expanded and improved Medicare for All \(a single-payer system\)](#).

HCR Spotlight

Letter to the Editor San Francisco Chronicle 12/9/24

Dr. Hank Abrons, LWV Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, Healthcare Reform Interest Group

Wrong target

The assassin who shot United Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson to death on December 4 aimed at the wrong target, used the wrong weapon, and wasn't the right person to do the job.

The target should be United Healthcare's profit-seeking business model.

The weapon must be legislation to replace private health insurance with universal health insurance through a fair publicly financed program.

The right folks to do the job are the voters and our elected legislators.

We must remove health insurance CEOs by nonviolent political action. Let's go on the offense to establish single-payer health insurance (AKA "improved Medicare for all"). We know how to do this. We've done the research, developed the policies, written the legislation, shown the cost savings, and more.

It's up to all of us to help abolish private for-profit health insurance, may it R.I.P. Then we can rejoice and enjoy the health we deserve.

Hank was a guest on NPR SF 91.7 "Your Call" to discuss the [UnitedHealth shooting and the broken healthcare system](#). Tuesday, Dec.17 10:00 a.m. PT Live

November Meeting Topics

National League / Interest Group

Our line of communication with LWVUS is slow despite **Linda Mahan** (CO)'s persistence. We expect to get directions soon for writing a charter for the HCR Interest Group.

Continuing State Efforts to Fight Privatization

The 2024 election, like our 2024 Convention, may slow progress toward Medicare for All, but state-based concurrences within the League may still be possible. [Read](#) more.

Exploring New Education and Advocacy Venues

Beyond the [HCR4US Toolkit](#), Google group, and [YouTube channel](#), members proposed these paths:

1. **Alan Unell** (WA) and **Mo Brinck-Lund** (WA) suggested using [Substack](#) for public communications, especially the Notes function for more interaction.

2. Join [Blue Sky](#), a more inclusive version of Twitter/X

3. **Alan Unell** reviewed how his [Healthcare Advocacy Substack](#) works with [Resistbot](#) for "daily advocacy" action as a potential model.

Reminder that the League requires clearance ([Impact](#), p. 7) from state or federal leadership to speak as a League member when advocating on state or federal issues, respectively, as opposed to speaking as an individual.

Questioning Mission Creep?

As we review our Mission and decide our next activities, **Hank Abrons** (CA) cautioned against "mission creep." Are we in danger of spreading ourselves too thin? Share your opinion in our new [webform](#).

Attendees

AK – carolyn V. Brown
 AK – Sandra Garrity
 CA – Jon Li
 CA – Anton Prange
 CO – Elaine Branjord
 CO – Marilyn Ayers

CO – Linda Mahan
 CO – Pamela Parks
 FL – Candy Birch
 GA – Sharon Hill
 KY – Harriette Seiler
 LA – Flora Blackstock

MA – Barbara Pearson
 NC – Wayne Hale
 NC – Robin Lane
 NY – Judith Esterquest
 OR – Christa Danielson
 VA – Stephanie Lowenhaupt

VT – Jean Hopkins
 VT – Eduardo Siquera
 WA – Maureen Brinck-Lund
 WA – Angela Gyurko
 WA – Alan Unell
 WA – Voki Unell

In Case You Missed It

Nov 13 National Single Payer hosts Dr. Margaret Flowers “[Mirror, Mirror: Twenty Years of Failing System Report Cards, and Fifteen Years after the Affordable Care Act—Why are we still here?](#)”

Nov 19 Charlene Harrington et al presents “[Nursing Homes in California](#)” passcode X6FEj@=p

Nov 24 HCR4US meeting [video](#) and [audio](#)

Upcoming

Jan 14 8:00 p.m. ET US CommunityHealthcare.net meeting via Zoom “Historical Precedent for Single-Payer Administrative Structure” Register [here](#).

Websites

HCR4US Toolkit:

<https://lwvhealthcarereform.org>

HCR4US Youtube Channel:

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

HCR4US Mtg Minutes:

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

HCR4US Web-Contact Form:

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

Password protected directory

Networking

One Payer States

<https://www.onepayerstates.org/>

National Single Payer

<https://nationalsinglepayer.com/>

Healthcare Advocacy on Substack

[Here's the link.](#)

Physicians for a National Health Program

<https://pnhp.org/>

Students for a Nat'l Health Program (SNaHP)

<https://www.facebook.com/snhp1/>

Center for Medicare Advocacy

<https://www.MedicareAvocacy.org>

National Nurses United

<https://www.nationalnursesunited.org>

Medicare for All Resolutions

<https://www.medicare4allresolutions.org>

Poor Peoples Campaign

<https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org>

ADD YOUR GROUP [HERE](#)

State Reports

Alaska: **carolyn Brown** reported that her state maintained Rank-Choice Voting despite an effort from its legislature to eliminate it.

California: **Hank Abrons** shared the [link to the video](#) (passcode X6FEj@=p) about nursing homes in California. Jon Li shared the establishment of US Community Healthcare.Net focusing on local public health departments.

Georgia: **Sharon Hill**, LWVGA VP of Advocacy, says that to maximize advocacy, her League has partnered with other organizations like [NAMI](#), making inroads w/Medicaid Expansion & Healthy Families (work on [Paid Family Leave](#)). They plan to lean in on local, municipal issues in 2025, as a bridge to federal midterms.

New York: **Judy Esterquest** reports that her local League and others have adopted a *short version of the Vermont privatization position* and hope that the state League will adopt it by concurrence in June. A topic for the December HCR4US meeting?

Virginia: **Stephanie Lowenhaupt** reports that VA is preparing for its short legislative session and a governor's race. They are also advocating for 3 constitutional amendments, (including a reproductive rights amendment) and lots of state issues.

Did we leave out your report? Let us know in our [contact form](#).

Take Action!

- Contact your state League leadership to advocate concurring with the [Vermont Privatization Proposal](#). For more information, contact [LWV PWM](#).
- Express your interest [HERE](#) in creating a program for
 - ◆ Reproductive Rights,
 - ◆ Behavioral Health, or
 - ◆ Rural Affairs
- [Share your ideas](#) for the Legislative Work Group or a focus group on HCR4US mission.
- [VOLUNTEER](#) to be liaison to BLUE SKY
- [Send names](#) of other Health Care Reform groups you contribute to or are active in.
- There is an [ERA action alert](#) from LWVUS. Do it now!
- Consider subscribing (\$5/mo) to Wendell Potter's “[Health Care Uncovered](#)” Substack
- Can we list you in a [password protected directory](#)?
- Contact your Senators to oppose passing [HC 9495](#) bill. Note: **Linda Mahan** shared internal [Talking Points](#) that Brady Horine, LWVUS Legislative Policy Coordinator, sent her, pointing out that LWVUS does have a position to use in advocating against HR9495, that is “The Citizens’ Right to Know” (page 52/59 of [Impact on Issues](#))

*A quote from the Meeting CHAT on maintaining non-partisanship
“Advocate for policy — not politics.”*

Article Archive

Recent Articles of Interest Related to Healthcare Reform

Please send us articles (citation and/or pdf) through the [Google Group](#).

Sept. 19, 2024 [The Commonwealth Fund](#)

“Mirror, Mirror 2024: A Portrait of the Failing U.S. Health System: Comparing Performance in 10 Nations”

By David Blumenthal, Evan D. Gumas, Arnav Shah, Munira Z. Gunja, Reginald D. Williams II

The U.S. continues to be in a class by itself in the underperformance of its health care sector. Unlike the U.S., the other nine countries have all found a way to meet their residents’ most basic health care needs, including universal coverage.

Nov. 15, 2024 [The Intercept](#) (Not HC per se, but a grave threat to HC Reformers)

“House GOP Moves to Ram Through Bill That Gives Trump Unilateral Power to Kill Non-Profits”

By Noah Hurowitz

Hank Abrons sounded the alarm about HR #9495, (Tenney-R) which already passed in the House. It would extend current laws that severely restrict groups which provide material support to terrorist groups. BUT it would to empower the Treasury Secretary to side-step due process and decide unilaterally to designate any non-profit, like those giving humanitarian aid to Palestinians, as terrorist organizations. It would be a powerful tool for presidential administrations to crack down on political enemies, taking away tax-exempt status and making it subject to harassment. Contact your US Senators to oppose passing HC 9495 bill. Check links in blue box on p. 2.

Dec. 9, 2024 [The Wall Street Journal](#) (for no paywall, check [here](#))

“UnitedHealthcare and the ObamaCare Con”

By Allysia Finley

The law’s mandates and regulations have given rise to myriad insurance-market grievances.

Dec. 12, 2024 On the Toolkit but from [The New Yorker](#)

“Gilded Age of Medicine Is Here”

By Dhruv Khullar

Health insurers and hospitals increasingly treat patients less as humans in need of care than consumers who generate profit.

Dec. 13, 2024 [Michael Moore Substack](#)

“A Manifesto Against For-Profit Health Insurance Companies”

Moore has been writing this manifesto at least since his movie "Sicko" in 2007.

About This Issue

HCR Communications

LWV-HCR is changing the format of our monthly newsletter. We want to share more directly best practices from more of our members. We also hope to **capture the ideas that arise from the brainstorming we do in our monthly Zooms — so we can follow-up on them more reliably.**

In addition to HCR4US business, we’ve used the newsletter like a blog, providing overviews of timely themes. We would assemble materials on a particular topic organized around an unusual perspective. Our hope was that someone might want to use our materials to make their own program.

However, without a specific program or audience in mind, follow up from the articles, as well as our meetings, has been sporadic. So, we aim to make our regular monthly communication more **action-oriented.**