

Our Health

Health Care for All NC Quarterly Newsletter
www.healthcareforallnc.org

Health Care for All NC educates and advocates for the “right to health care” so that access to appropriate, consistent health care is ensured for all North Carolinians.

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ACTION ALERT!

The Time Has Come for Health Care for All!

House Bill 901 will amend the NC Constitution to assert that health care is a right for all North Carolina citizens. Once passed, the state is then responsible for developing a plan for universal access to care within one year, and implementing the plan within four years. If we act now, North Carolina may have universal access to health care in five years time!

Currently, HB901 is stuck in a Rules Committee of the NC General Assembly. Joe Hackney, Speaker of the House, has the power to move the bill into a Policy Committee. He is unlikely to take this action without your strong support.

Now is the time to make health care for all a reality in North Carolina! With your support, 37 legislative co-sponsors, and nearly 80 endorsing organizations HB901 can move to the floor, be put on the November 8th ballot, and amend our state Constitution! **We can't do it without you!**

Contact Joe Hackney, Speaker of the House, at joeh@ncleg.net and/or 919.733.3451. Voice your support for HB901, “An Act to Amend the North Carolina Constitution to Recognize the Right to Health Care.” Please do not delay - write the email and make the call NOW! Include “HB901” in the subject line of your email for better recognition. Please urge your friends, neighbors, & colleagues to support HB 901 by contacting Joe Hackney. **There is no message too short or too long – just make contact!**

For even bigger impact, copy your representative on your email to Joe Hackney.

To find out who your representative is, visit:

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/> and click on “Who Represents Me?” on the bottom right corner of the screen.

Two Over Ten Campaign Takes Off

Health Care for All NC's “Two Over Ten” campaign has inspired constituents to contact their representatives to legislators in the General Assembly (GA) on a weekly basis in support of health care for all. Each GA member receives weekly follow-up flyers, which advocate health care for all NC on the basis of cost savings, reduction of governmental and health insurance companies' roles in decision-making processes, and supporting doctors and patients in making health decisions independently of external forces.

Two Over Ten began as a small initiative, reaching only 12 General Assembly members. Now, 62 GA members receive regular correspondence. Print materials generated for Two Over Ten have received high praise from legislators, legislators' assistants, and other activist organizations.

Bill Brooks, Co-Chair of Communications and leader of the Two Over Ten campaign, needs your help to expand the program. Members are specifically invited to help with securing speaking opportunities to further develop the program, and to make specified donations to cover the costs of the print materials.

Contact Bill at wmhbrooks@yahoo.com for more information.

Would you like to volunteer?

Email Mysha Syssine at mesissine@gmail.com.

Health Care for All NC Awarded \$15K for Chapter Development

Health Care for All NC was recently awarded a \$15K grant from the Charles E. and Alberta Dolan Fund and The Floyd Fletcher Fund of Triangle Community Foundation. The grant will be used to expand two local chapters of Health Care for All NC in Wake and Durham-Orange Counties to include more low income and minority residents - those most likely to be uninsured.



We hope that completing our educational DVD and distributing it among members, legislators, and media outlets in Wake, Durham, and Orange Counties will support our chapter expansion efforts. This money will help us to increase letters to the editor, op eds, and messages to legislators in support of universal access to health care in NC. The funds will also support advocacy training to increase effectiveness of our lobbying efforts.



Health Care for All NC to Hire Paula Wolf, Lobbyist, to Advance HB901

I am delighted to be representing *Health Care for All NC* in the North Carolina General Assembly. I have a rich history of working on health care issues in North Carolina. In 1991, I was part of successful efforts of the “Lifesavers Coalition” to legislate mandatory coverage of mammograms and Pap smears by every health insurance policy written in NC.

From 1993-1995, I staffed committees for the State Employees Association of North Carolina concerning the State Employees’ and Teachers’ Health Plan. Governor Hunt appointed me to a subcommittee of his “NC Health Planning Commission” at a time when our state – following the momentum from the Clinton Administration - was investigating universal health care for our residents.

In addition, I was Chief Lobbyist for the Covenant with North Carolina’s Children, where I participated in the development of the NC state plan and was the lead lobbyist for the implementation of the state/federal children’s health insurance program (NC Health Choice).

I look forward to working with you on this basic human right of health care for all. – *Paula A. Wolf*



Health Care for All NC Hires Interim Executive Director

I am Emily Taylor, and I am delighted to introduce myself as the Interim Executive Director of Health Care for All NC. This is an exciting time for our organization, and I look forward to being a positive contributor to the progress we are making.

I come to Health Care for All NC with a longstanding commitment to public health. I am a candidate for a Master's in Public Health and a certificate in Health Inequities, at UNC – Chapel Hill. Before coming to North Carolina, I founded and directed the Middle Georgia Health Literacy Taskforce, where I gained experience in advocating for a unifying vision, developing a strong membership base, managing staff and volunteers, and maintaining financial solvency. My work in journalism taught me to communicate in written words. I gained tremendous personal commitment to health equity and access to care while working as an activist and serving as a childbirth doula and victims' advocate.

Health Care for All NC is the only statewide, member-based organization advocating for the right to health care. Without our members, Health Care for All NC cannot reach our common goal of ensuring access to care. We want you to be involved. Contact me if you have any ideas or suggestions: ExecDir@healthcareforallnc.org or 919.338.2535. - *Emily C. Taylor*