

THE NC PROBLEM AND SOLUTION IN BRIEF

The Problem

- 16 % of North Carolina's population, in excess of 1.3 million North Carolinians, were without health insurance for all of 2005. Nearly as many lack coverage for part of a year and an additional million North Carolinians, including many of the state's elderly do not have adequate health insurance.
- More than 457,000 North Carolina residents lost employer-sponsored health insurance between 2000 and 2003, as businesses either dropped the benefit or shifted higher premium costs to workers.
- While a majority of uninsured North Carolinians are white and employed, ethnic minorities, the working poor, young adults and children are disproportionately uninsured. Although the working poor shoulder the largest tax burden (proportional to income), they make up a larger number of uninsured than do the unemployed. This is so even while 65 cents of every health care dollar spent in our nation is paid out of public funds, or foregone taxes.
- The uninsured in North Carolina generate a cost to hospitals of \$1.3 billion per year. Insured North Carolinians and taxpayers share the burden of keeping the hospitals we rely open, through increased premiums and taxes, no matter the shortfall.

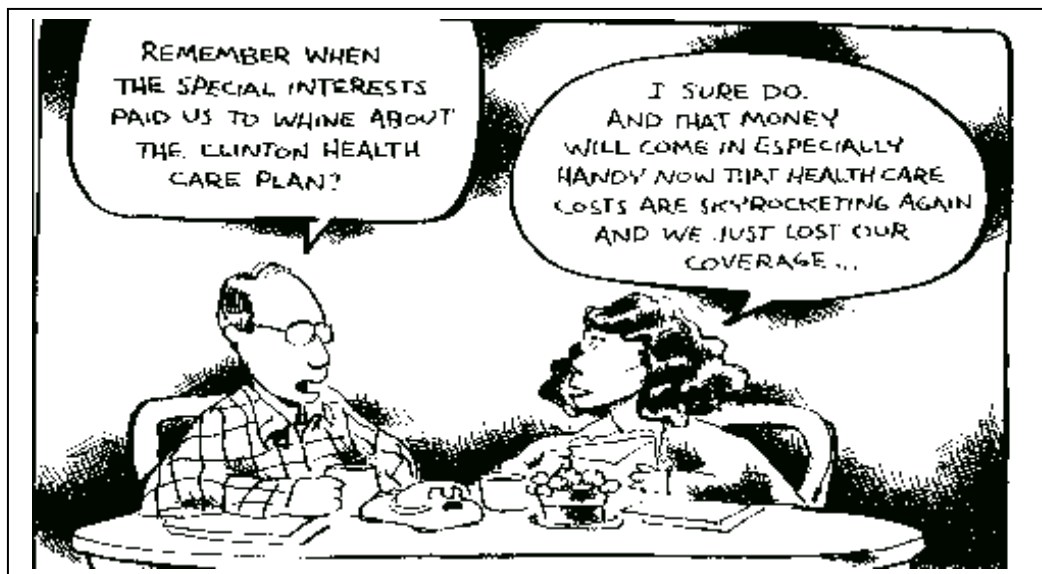
The Solution for North Carolina

- To address this increasing need, Representative Verla Insko of Chapel Hill introduced HB 901, "Health Care for All" and HB 1897, "Health Care for All Planning Commission" in the North Carolina General Assembly.
- HB 901, if passed by both houses of the General Assembly, would allow the voters of North Carolina to decide by popular vote in November 2008 whether all residents of our state should enjoy the right to health care with the state constitution being so amended.

- If passed by the voters, the bill would require that, by July 2010, “the General Assembly shall provide by law a plan to ensure that ... every resident of North Carolina has access to appropriate health care on a regular basis.”
- The amendment does *not* require that the state become a health care provider or insurer, *or* that any individual physician or other health provider offer care to any individual resident upon demand, *or* that the state provide health care to illegal aliens.
- The amendment does *not* prescribe any particular mechanism or mechanisms to meet the obligation of providing access to health care for all North Carolinians, only that the legislature develop a plan to assure access to needed medical care for all residents of our state.

North Carolinians support legislation to assure all residents of decent health care

Of North Carolinians 83.1%, including 73% of Republicans, 81% of Democrats, and 86% of those not identifying with either party, either strongly agree or agree, that “the State Legislature should make a plan so that all NC residents can get decent health care on a regular basis”, according to a poll by the School of Journalism and Mass Communications at UNC in 2000.



Health Care for All NC

A 501(c)(3), non-profit, membership organization educating and advocating for the right to health care for all North Carolinians