One year after PPACA: Time to advance the fight for health care justice

By Mark Dudzic
National Coordinator for the Labor Campaign for Single Payer

Last month marked the one-year anniversary of the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). But if it is to have any meaning, this anniversary must be a time for summing up and looking ahead. It is a time to take a hard look at the accomplishments and prospects of PPACA.

PPACA today is under vicious assault from the same right-wing forces that want to deny public employees access to affordable health care, destroy the social safety net and attack workers’ rights everywhere. Even if it survives this assault and is fully implemented over the next four years, it will never succeed in providing universal access to affordable, quality health care to everyone in America. Only a publicly financed Medicare-for-All single payer system can deliver on that promise. We must put on the chopping block by politicians too timid to confront Wall Street greed.

Public workers, even in states with Democratic administrations, have had single payer legislation submitted. Workers in the private sector still must fight every day to preserve affordable health care. Public workers, even in states with Democratic administrations, have seen their health benefits put on the chopping block by politicians too timid to confront Wall Street greed.

This is no time to sit on our laurels. Labor must take the lead in building a powerful movement to confront corporate power and extend health care justice to everyone in America.

Congressman John Conyers Jr. (D-Mich.) has reintroduced H.R. 676 with 39 co-sponsors. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Congressman Jim McDermott (D-Wash.) will soon introduce a joint single payer bill that incorporates several labor-friendly provisions. The Vermont legislature just sent to the Senate a bill that will put the state on track to establish the first single payer system in the U.S. Seventeen other states have had single payer legislation submitted. Workers in the private sector still must fight every day to preserve affordable health care.

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All information is confidential

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