



PHYSICIANS FOR
A NATIONAL
HEALTH
PROGRAM



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Dear Colleague:

We invite you to endorse The Physicians' Proposal for Single-Payer National Health Insurance (NHI) which appeared in the August 13, 2003 JAMA - joining more than 10,000 physicians who already publicly support this effort. We also urge you to join Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) – the organization that is spearheading advocacy for the proposal.

The NHI proposal was crafted by a distinguished physician panel at the invitation of some 125 members of Congress. **The abstract of the proposal is reproduced on the back of this letter.** You can view the full text at www.physiciansproposal.org.

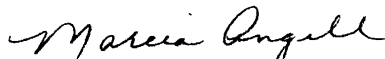
A mounting crisis threatens medical care in our nation. A decade of managed care constraints and pro-market public policies have now clearly failed. Costs are increasing at double digit rates, hospitals face dire financial straits, and 43.6 million are left uninsured with more people losing coverage each day. Even insured patients find their coverage deficient when they need it most.


NHI is the only affordable option for universal coverage. Nearly one-third of current health spending goes to overhead (NEJM 8/21/03). Many studies confirm that the administrative savings of NHI would fully offset the added costs of universal coverage.

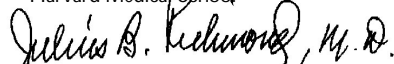
A reopening of health reform debate is imminent after a decade of quiescence. Surging health costs make current health care financing arrangement untenable. Already, some corporate advisors and conservative politicians advocate privatization of Medicare and draconian health spending cuts as the solution. But the deepening crisis also opens space for an alternative vision that is both caring and affordable.

The Physicians' Proposal initiates our campaign to articulate this vision. Recent surveys suggest that many, perhaps most, physicians now favor NHI. The JAMA publication of our proposal this past August sparked a surge in media attention and public awareness. Physician advocacy for NHI is critical to maintaining this momentum, and setting in motion a vibrant public discourse on health care's future.


Please join in the effort to assure care for all, and to restore medicine as a calling, not a business.



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