

Statement on the Senate Healthcare Bill By the CCDS National Executive Committee and the CCDS Healthcare Committee

We in the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism (CCDS) have watched the health insurance reform process with wide eyed optimism and hope. Hope that our elected officials and President Obama would put politics aside and do what is best for the American people- make affordable and equitable health care accessible to all. However the bill that was approved by the Senate deviates significantly from “the promise” of affordable and equitable health care for all.

CCDS continues to support single payer as the best health care option to contain health care costs and provide access to everyone. However, in light of the questionable decision to remove the option of single payer coverage at the state and national level from the policy discussion, CCDS supports notable provisions of the House bill, such as:

1. Including an affordable public option and a progressive surcharge tax on the wealthy to pay for it, be included in the final merged bill. The public option would not only provide an affordable choice for the uninsured, but would help to bend the health care cost curve by fostering true competition between insurance plans. If a public option is not in the final health care reform bill, there should be an affordable Medicare buy-in for individuals between ages 55-64.
2. Removing the insurance industry's anti-trust exemption and for more generous subsidies to make insurance more affordable for not only the very poor, but also for the working class.
3. Allowing reimportation of prescription drugs from Canada would save the U.S. \$100 billion in health care costs.
4. Removing the restrictions on coverage for abortion or other reproductive decisions made by women or men. Insurance plans must provide abortion coverage without requiring "two checks," one paying the bulk of the premium and the other paying for abortion coverage.
5. Not taxing existing health care plans of working people in an effort to pay for health care reform.

We urge our members to call, write, and email their Senate and House representatives to vote for true health care reform that benefits the people and **not** the for- profit insurance industry.