

Tips for encouraging your patients to sign the petition for Single-Payer National Health Insurance, H.R. 676

1. Hang up a copy of the **poster** titled "The only cure for a sick America is Single-Payer National Health Insurance" in your waiting room or work area. It's available for purchase through the PNHP store (www.pnhp.org).
2. Make copies of the "**Petition for National Health Insurance**" and put them on a clipboard near your check-in area and/or in your waiting room.
3. Make a few copies of the PNHP's "**Frequently Asked Questions about Single Payer**" and either laminate them or slip them into sheet protectors; place one near or on top of each petition clipboard.
4. After collecting signatures for several weeks, **make three photocopies of the petition pages and mail a set each to your representative and your two senators.** Keep the original set for future use in lobbying.

Dr. Howard Green of Palm Beach, Fla., describes how this approach (which he developed, by the way) worked for him:

"The petitions were placed on the check-in ledge of our office for several weeks. The PNHP poster was tacked to the wall directly adjacent to the check-in ledge. A laminated page summarizing H.R. 676 was placed next to or on top of the petition clipboard.

"Patients were given a simple prompt by the check-in person to sign the petition. Those who didn't sign were offered a synopsis of H.R. 676 or a copy of my op-ed on single payer. The check-in person was instructed not to argue or cajole the patients into signing.

"We collected many signatures. We noticed that most, if not all, patients, regardless of income or political persuasion, had no idea about H.R. 676 or the benefits of having a national health insurance (NHI) plan. Others were unaware that physicians support NHI.

"Some had preconceived ideas about NHI, including the idea that 'once the government gets hold of health care, it will ruin it and we'll have long wait times.' So having a FAQ or set of talking points readily at hand to reply to such concerns is helpful.

"The patients who were newly informed about single payer became truly excited about its potential. The poster and petition served as a memorable introduction for patients to H.R. 676 in a health care setting. It also served to build and reinforce a relationship between the physician and the patient, which is a powerful alliance when lobbying Congress.

"Finally, our practice prints the following message on our 7,000-plus patient balance bills which are mailed out each month: 'Tired of health insurance problems? Then do something about it - support H.R. 676. Visit www.pnhp.org.'"



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Petition for National Health Insurance, H.R. 676

Whereas, a bill has been proposed in Congress, H.R. 676, the **"U.S. National Health Care Act,"** which will provide quality, affordable and comprehensive care to everyone, including prescription drug coverage, and

Whereas, patients will be guaranteed their choice of physicians, hospitals and clinics under this plan, with no co-pays and no deductibles, and

Whereas, 59 percent of doctors support national health insurance, and

Whereas, by eliminating the wasteful bureaucracy and profits of the private health insurance industry, our nation will save about \$350 billion annually - more than enough to cover the 47 million people who presently lack insurance and to improve coverage for the tens of millions who are underinsured, and

Whereas, H.R. 676 provides money for the retraining and job placement of private health insurance industry workers, who would be encouraged to go into programs related to public health, long-term care and home health care,

Therefore, be it resolved, that **we, the undersigned, call on our members of Congress to pass H.R. 676, single-payer national health insurance, so that our people and our nation can have the excellent health care system we deserve. We believe health care is a human right, and we call on our members of Congress to recognize that right.**

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