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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

“Cover America Now” Rally for National HealthCare Reform

On the eve of Presidential Debate in Nashville
Monday, October 6th - 4-7pm
Legislative Plaza - Union & 6th Ave. N. - Downtown Nashville, TN

The two major candidates for president are debating in Nashville on Tuesday, Oct. 7th, but **only a couple hundred regular citizens will be allowed into the debate, therefore, in order to make our voices heard, thousands will gather at Legislative Plaza on Monday evening October 6th to say:** *Listen up candidates, when it comes to National Healthcare Reform-the debate is over! Americans say “Cover America Now.” This means we expect the next President and Congress to reform our broken healthcare system to one that delivers guaranteed affordable choice in quality healthcare for everyone!*

Most Americans Want to See Change to Our Health Care System

Regardless of partisan affiliation, most Americans agree this election is about change and 8 in 10 Americans say they want to see dramatic change in our broken health care system! Voters rank Healthcare Reform as the #2 issue of concern. And this pocketbook issue is directly tied-to the Economy, which is the #1 issue of concern. That’s why thousands are gathering on Monday evening, October 6th at Legislative Plaza to rally for healthcare reform.

With 47 million uninsured, tens of millions with private health insurance paying huge premiums and seeing reductions in benefits, and often being denied care by health insurance companies, and with 700,000 families facing bankruptcy each year due to medical debt, we insist that candidates make healthcare reform a priority and tell us what they are planning to do about reforming the healthcare system, if elected. We cannot ask them at the debate in person, so we are gathering on Monday evening, Oct. 6 at Legislative Plaza to make our voices heard. We hope the media will come to



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our event and talk to regular voters so they can be heard on this critical issue and voter demand.

Cover America Now is made up of dozens of groups and individuals that are tired of hearing candidates call for change and improvement to our health care systems yet end up doing nothing once elected. Because a majority of Americans are insisting that we find a way to provide guaranteed affordable choice for every man, woman, and child and are expecting that the President and Congress take action to do, we know it is our right and duty to make our voices heard loudly and clearly. That's why thousands are gathering on Monday evening, October 6th at Legislative Plaza to rally for healthcare reform and to let the media and policy-makers who will be paying attention to the Presidential debates know we are serious.

- The two major candidates for president are debating in Nashville on Tuesday, Oct. 7th, but only a couple hundred regular citizens will be allowed into the debate therefore we want to make our voices heard.
- Our message to candidates is clear: Cover American Now! Voters expect the new president and Congress—whoever they may be—to make national healthcare reform a priority.
- Dozens of groups and hundreds of individuals are converging for a Rally for National Health Care.
- Rally for National Health Care is not endorsing any particular solutions, but we embrace change that will make guaranteed affordable choice in quality health care a reality within the next few years.

Event sponsors: AARP, AFL-CIO, Center for Community Change, Central Labor Council of Nashville & Middle TN, Health Care for America Now, Healthcare NOW - Nashville, Interfaith Alliance of Middle TN, Middle TN Jobs With Justice, Nashville Peace & Justice Center, National Health Care for the Homeless, Physicians for National Health Program, Save Our Cumberland Mountains, SEIU Local 205, TN Alliance for Progress, TN Conference on Social Welfare, TN Disability Coalition, TN Equality Project, TN Health Care Campaign, TN Transgender Political Coalition, Tying Nashville Together, United Neighborhood Health Services, Witherspoon Society of Presbyterians.

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HEALTHCARE IN AMERICA: THE FACTS*

- 8 in 10 Americans want national health care reform
- Healthcare is a Pocketbook Issue and continues to rank high on the list of voter concerns, recent polling shows as high as #2. Even as the Economy now ranks #1, when asked to explain this concern, American voters explain this concerns includes jobs, the housing crisis, and healthcare access and affordability and medical debt.
 - 47 million Americans are uninsured.
 - Tens of millions are paying more for health insurance while benefits & coverage decreases.
 - Tens of millions with health insurance are denied care by insurance companies each year.
 - 700,000 families each year face bankruptcy due to medical debt.
 - 18,000 Americans die each year simply because they don't have access to health care.
 - With health care going up by 10% each year and wages going up less than 3%, it is a losing proposition for working families.
 - High health care costs make U.S. products at least 6% more expensive than products of other countries.
 - American businesses—from General Motors to Pop's General Store—cannot continue to afford ever-increasing healthcare costs, but cannot afford an unhealthy workforce either.
 - America is the world's greatest democracy, why then does Germany, Japan, Switzerland and nearly every other capitalist democracy cover all their people for a lot than the U.S. pays per capita, with our 47 million uninsured?

*Sources: US Census, The Common Wealth Fund, PBS Frontline's "Sick Around the World," Kaiser Family Foundation
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UNITED THROUGH VALUES

America is strong because its people have the freedom to unite for the common good, understanding that we can accomplish anything when we all work together. We are all connected and have a shared responsibility to the greater good. And there is no greater good than the health of our families and communities. Yet, for millions of us, when it comes to maintaining and improving our states of health, we have an ailing system that tells us: You're on your own. In America today, our profit-centered health care system is leaving more and more Americans out in the cold. This is not who we are as a people. Health care is a basic need. And it is time we state in one voice that guaranteed affordable choice in healthcare is an American value. Together, we can do better. Together, we can create a fair and just health care system that serves all of us.

Together, we can Cover America Now!

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