Healthcare Is a Human Right Campaign
Policy Positions Worksheet
November 2014

Instructions

1. Read through our campaign’s five policy positions-- do any of the points relate to your personal healthcare story?
2. If so, use the box provided to write your personal story.
3. In 1-2 sentences, write a takeaway message that links your story with the policy position.

1. Universal access to care that meets all health needs
   ● Green Mountain Care must be adequately funded to meet health needs.
   ● The GMC financing plan must start with health needs and raise resources to follow those needs.
   ● Access to care must not be rationed by insurance “benefits packages.”
   ● Patients must receive care for all their health needs, including dental and vision.

Personal story: (eg. dental problems resulting in poor health, lack of access to medications/treatments because not covered by insurance)

Take-away message: (e.g. My story shows why all people must have access to all the care they need to stay healthy; we need a universal healthcare system that meet all our health needs, including dental.)
2. Everyone contributes through equitable, progressive taxes; no more premiums

- GMC must be funded publicly through the tax system.
- Public financing must replace private insurance premiums.
- Individuals and businesses should contribute according to their ability to pay, in line with the principle of equity. This requires progressive taxes.
- GMC should be funded by a mix of income taxes (on earned and unearned income), wealth taxes and a graduated payroll tax for businesses, with exemptions for the smallest businesses.

Personal story: (eg. not being able to afford premiums, losing coverage after skipping a premium payment, choosing skimpy coverage due to cost concerns)

Take-away message: (e.g. My story shows how premiums can make the cost of healthcare prohibitive, and we must have a healthcare system where people pay according to ability through taxes.)
3. **No more out-of-pocket costs that restrict access to care**
   - Payment for healthcare must be independent from the use of care.
   - GMC must eliminate deductibles and co-pays, which harm people’s health.
   - Even small co-pays cause inequality in access to care and lead to poorer health outcomes, while failing to increase cost-effectiveness.

**Personal story:** (eg. foregoing or delaying care because of deductible or co-pays even if co-pay is low)

**Take-away message:** (e.g. my story shows how co-pays make people forgo care and worsen their health, and we must have a healthcare system where care is free at the point of service)
4. Universal = everyone

- Green Mountain Care must include everyone.
- This includes people employed by big, self-insured corporations. These workers should be able to join GMC, and big corporations doing business in Vermont should contribute to funding GMC.

Personal story: (eg. undocumented people going without care and suffering from ill health as a result, people with Medicare unable to afford supplemental insurance and going without healthcare/meds, working for a big, self-insured employer whose coverage is not adequate)

Take-away message: (eg. My story shows how important it is for Green Mountain Care to be truly universal, with no exceptions, so that all people have access to all care)

5. Healthcare is a public good that should be publicly financed and administered

- As a public good, healthcare should be administered by a public agency that people can hold accountable. It should not be subcontracted to a private corporation that is looking to profit from healthcare.
- Human rights standards should apply to any public contract, in order to ensure that contractors cannot put profit interests over people’s needs.

**Personal story:** (eg. a negative experience with middlemen or subcontractors, or observations and experiences about private companies profiting from healthcare)

**Take-away message:** (e.g. We must get rid of private contractors who are not accountable and instead administer our healthcare system publicly, as a public good.)