

WEEKLY MONITOR

Our Mission:

Unite health care professionals, consumer organizations, caregivers and concerned citizens to advocate for improved access to quality, affordable and secure health care.

Visit our website at <http://www.oregoniansforhealthsecurity.org>

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Profile of National Health Care Action Day: 200 March in Portland

Hundreds gathered Thursday, March 4 in Portland's living room to demand common sense solutions to our health care crisis. The event was part of a 125 city national day of action to bring awareness to the crisis in health care in this country.

"There is a health care emergency in Oregon and the United States. We need employers to live up to their responsibility to provide family health care coverage and we need the state to preserve vital health care services for those in need," said Dana Welty, a neo-natal ICU Nurse at OHSU.

Health care costs are spiraling out of control and many employers are demanding that employees pay for more of these increases. Employers

are also trying to raise co-pays and deductibles to cover the increases and to discourage workers from using their health plans.

While employers are trying to cut benefits, massive cuts in both public and private services are affecting the quality of care, especially for those that need it most. It all adds up to Oregonians pay-

"Our health care system has reached a breaking point. We need solutions to this crisis that lower costs and expand access for Oregonians."

Dr. Martin Donohoe, Old Town Clinic

ing more – in taxes, fees, co-pays and premiums – while getting less care and fewer services. To underscore the problem, workers with and without health care coverage shared their stories.

Dr. Martin Donohoe also shared his experiences with the health



"Pill People" join in Health Care Action Day

care system.

After the speakers over 200 people joined in a march through the downtown streets following a fire truck chanting for improvements in health care.

Health care reform will take all of us, health care providers, consumers, workers and employers coming together to demand action from our elected leaders.

Weekly Dose

"Even if you don't have health insurance you are still taken care of in America. That certainly could be defined as universal coverage."

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson
 March 4, 2004

Congress Considers Medicaid Cuts

Contact Senators Wyden and Smith



Recently, the Senate released its budget resolution - the first legislative step in setting federal budget parameters for the coming years - and it's terrible news for state Medicaid programs. The resolution proposes cutting Medicaid by at least \$11 billion over five years.

Instead of helping the states and reducing the number of uninsured, the Senate Budget Committee's proposal to cut \$11 billion is certain to increase the number of uninsured Americans and

lead to further cuts in the quality of care to our nation's nursing home residents, people with disabilities, and millions of low-income children and their mothers.

In Oregon, we are already facing a crisis in health care coverage. The uninsured are increasing while state budget cuts are putting health care coverage at risk. Cutting federal matching funds will make this crisis even worse. [Please click here](#) to contact Senators Smith and Wyden and urge them to oppose the Medicaid cuts called for in the Senate budget resolution.

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