

**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS**

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**LEGISLATIVE ALERT!**

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April 24, 2007

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2328 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

The AFL-CIO supports the Medicare for All Act, to be introduced this week. This common sense approach would close the gaps in our current health care system and guarantee quality, affordable health care to all Americans.

Nearly forty-five million U.S. citizens are uninsured. Tens of millions more worry about losing the coverage they have. Workers fear changing or losing jobs because they are at risk of losing their health care coverage. American businesses that provide adequate health benefits are at a significant disadvantage, competing in the global marketplace with foreign companies that do not carry health care costs on their balance sheets. And the same is true for businesses in domestic competition against employers that provide little or no coverage.

By building on two programs covering millions of Americans – Medicare and the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan – your legislation provides families with the security of affordable health coverage while leveling the playing field for employers that provide good health benefits. Medicare would be updated and improved to include coverage of children's services and preventive care, with affordable out-of-pocket costs and savings from administrative efficiencies and effective bargaining. Financing would be a shared responsibility and employers could continue to offer supplemental coverage for their workers.

Earlier this month, the AFL-CIO Executive Council adopted a statement endorsing principles for universal health care and pledging our commitment to building public and employer support for the broad reforms needed to assure that every American has affordable, meaningful, quality coverage. The AFL-CIO is pleased to endorse the Medicare for All Act as an effective and thoughtful plan that meets those principles.

Sincerely,

William Samuel, Director  
DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATION