



NEWS RELEASE

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INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 725, AFL-CIO

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Electricians' Union Endorses Single-Payer National Health Insurance

IBEW Local 725 Passes Resolution in Support of H.R. 676.

Terre Haute - The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 725 passed a Resolution at their regular monthly membership meeting on May 8th in support of federal legislation for Single-Payer Health Care. A single-payer bill introduced by Rep. John Conyers Jr. (D-Mich.), H.R. 676, obtained 93 co-sponsors in the House during the last session. It has been reintroduced in the new Congress as the U.S. National Health Care Act with the same bill number.

According to Business Manager of IBEW local 725, R. Todd Thacker, "Health care coverage continues to be a critical issue, either in finding coverage or dealing with ever increasing costs. Health care needs to be addressed to help the millions of American families who are uninsured and underinsured. The best way to solve the problem is to pass single-payer health care coverage that would finally put us on the same level playing field with the rest of the world's industrialized countries."

H.R. 676, also called the United States National Health Insurance Act, is a bill to create a single-payer, publicly-financed, privately-delivered universal health care program that would cover all Americans without charging co-pays or deductibles. It guarantees access to the highest quality and most affordable health care services regardless of employment, ability to pay or pre-existing health conditions.

According IBEW Local 725 Representative Tom Szymanski, "Health care coverage and cost increases are always a fight at negotiations. Health care needs to be addressed as a Human Right, not a as a privileged right, and must have the profit-motive removed to be effective in providing coverage for all American families. It needs to be taken off the table and placed into a Medicare type structured plan if we, as a country, ever hope to stop the emotional, physical, and financial bleeding we face today in health care".

The single-payer system would eliminate the wasteful paperwork and administrative costs, redirecting more of our health care dollars to providing care. Medicare is perhaps the best known single-payer system. H.R. 676 would improve Medicare and expand it, so that it covers all Americans, regardless of their income.

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IBEW Local 725 is a labor organization with approximately 670 members covering nine counties in Indiana including the cities of Bloomington, Terre Haute, and Vincennes, and six counties in Illinois including the cities of Robinson and Paris. IBEW Local 725 represents electrical construction workers in the commercial, industrial, and residential markets.