

Organizing "Health Care Statement"
March 22, 2010

Health Care Vote
Rejoicing and Gratitude

For the first time in history, a comprehensive health care bill has passed both Houses of Congress. This is the most sweeping social legislation in the United States since the Great Society initiatives of the 1960's. Now, the House bill heads to the President's desk for signature, while the Senate will seek improvements to the bill with a package of amendments. We're not finished on health care reform, but last night's vote was an historic event and a likely indicator of victory.

Thank you for your faithful work organizing at the base for in-district and national actions, which helped to make passage of health care reform a reality. Your congressional visits, vigils, marches, public meetings, op-eds, sign-on letters, phone calls, emails, prayers were all essential in this Campaign. Our mobilization efforts in coalition with labor and faith groups across the country were strong only because of the work that you and countless others did at the base.

Click here to find out how your Representative voted. If they voted yes, please contact them with a word of thanks and support for their historic work.
<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2010/roll165.xml#Y>

We're not finished on health care reform - but we're getting close. And you, along with other organizing efforts, made it all possible. The bill will give health care to 32 million Americans and save over 30,000 lives per year. And it will regulate the insurance companies so they can no longer deny care for pre-existing conditions, charge you more if you're sick, put limits on your benefits, or increase rates with impunity.

Now, the Senate will finish what the House started and pass improvements to the bill with an up-or-down vote. We're almost finished. Now it's time to finish the job.

May God bless you for your hard work. This has been a long, difficult journey that has tested the resolve of all of us. Thank you for being in the struggle.

Dr. Ann Smith, President, Gamaliel Foundation
Rev. Dennis Jacobsen, Director, Gamaliel National Clergy Caucus