



Press Release for:
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Sen. Rockefeller Recognized as Champion for REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

WV Groups also join in National “It’s a Crime to Deny Care” Protest

Charleston, WV – At noon today WV groups working for Health Care Reform gathered downtown in the lobby of the old Daniel Boone Hotel to recognize West Virginia’s Senator Rockefeller as a champion for Real Health Reform. Rockefeller has repeatedly taken the side of the public over Big Insurance and is fighting for a new Public Insurance Option for those who have been shut out of the private market.

“Our Senator has had a longstanding commitment to fighting for citizens’ access to health care and in this present reform movement is now recognized as a national champion going up against Big Insurance and promoting a much-needed new Public Insurance Option,” commented Gary Zuckett Executive Director of WV Citizen Action Group.

“Now that Senator Kennedy is no longer with us, the Health Reform mantle has been passed to Senator Rockefeller. It is now up to him to lead the nation for real reform,” commented Perry Bryant, Executive Director of WV for Affordable Health Care.

Senator Rockefeller, deep in Finance Committee deliberations on Health Reform, was unable to attend the event but offered this comment, “People across West Virginia believe deeply in the need for health care reform. Those representing Health Care for America Now in our state are among those who stand up and fight for it – and I thank them for everything they do to realize a health care system that truly works for West Virginia families.”

It’s a Crime to Deny Care protest marches to CAMC

After the press conference, many of the assembled marched up Washington St. to the corner of CAMC hospital & the Clay Center and set up a mock “Crime Scene” armed with crime scene tape and chalk to graphically demonstrate Big Insurance Bureaucrats blocking access to medically need care in hospitals and doctors offices. “It’s a crime when faceless insurance bureaucrats deny doctor’s recommended treatments. In many cases it’s a matter of life & death, said Zuckett “If the insurance companies win, we lose,” he added.

Groups represented at the press conference: WV for Affordable Health Care; SEIU-1199; WV Nurses Assoc; NASW-WV; Organizing for America & WV Citizen Action.

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