



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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Dear Senator,

As President of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), AFL-CIO, I am writing regarding an expected vote on Amendment Number 2837, to be offered by Sen. Bernie Sanders. I am also writing in my capacity as the Chair of the Labor Caucus for Single Payer Health Care. We at IFPTE, along with the unions that make up the Single Payer Labor Caucus, urge your support the Sanders Amendment for single payer health care.

Throughout the entire debate surrounding health care reform the Labor Caucus for Single Payer health care has called on Congress, in bipartisan fashion, to pass legislation calling for the creation of a publicly financed health care delivery system similar or identical to the already existing Medicare program. Sadly, single payer was pretty much taken off the table from the very beginning of the debate, and the House failed to achieve a recorded vote on an expected single payer amendment sponsored by Congressman Weiner. However, when the Sanders amendment is considered as a part of the Senate's debate, every member of the Senate will finally have an opportunity to vote on single payer legislation.

We at IFPTE applaud those lawmakers that have cosponsored single payer legislation in both the House and Senate. Single payer legislation, in one form or another, has the backing of the US Conference of Mayors and the American College of Physicians, and has been endorsed by 535 union organizations in 49 states, including 20 international/national unions, and 39 State Federations of Labor. Single Payer healthcare legislation also has the backing of 59% of American doctors.

Also of significance is the fact that at the 2009 AFL-CIO Convention this past September, delegates representing national unions, central labor councils, state federations, and 11 million union members and their families voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 34 which states, "Health care is a fundamental human right and an important measure of social justice." IFPTE believes that the Sanders amendment achieves the goals outlined in Resolution 34.

We at IFPTE thank you for your efforts to craft reform legislation that addresses the health care crisis facing our nation. As a part of that process we are hopeful that you will support Amendment Number 2837. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or IFPTE Legislative Director, Matt Biggs, at (202) 239-4880.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Junemann,
President