

Dear Healthcare advocate;

We in Health Care for American Now have been saying for months that "health care can't wait." And we have been talking about why we need a public health insurance plan to provide a backup for private insurance.

Here is one more example of why this is so true.

ACME Markets, the largest supermarket chain in the Greater Philadelphia market, recently told their employee's union, the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1776, that they would terminate the current agreement if the members did not accept their "last, best and final" contract proposal. Unfortunately ACME's last offer would reduce the company's contributions to the Joint Labor/Management Health & Welfare Fund by 22% in the first year. At a time when real health care costs are rising in double digits, that would eliminate family benefits for a majority of the employees and prescription co-pays would increase from \$5 to \$40. And, by the end of the contract, the ACME proposal would decimate the fund, leaving over 4,000 families in the Delaware Valley without their employer based health care.

This is just one more example of what is happening to people all over our region and country-people who have long had good jobs and health care benefits are losing them. And the health care cost crisis is making it impossible for us rebuild our economy with rising wages.

We in HCAN want to preserve employer based health care. But we also know that there has to be a backup, public health insurance for those moments when businesses refuse to meet their responsibilities to their workers.

We need to take action. So please do two things:

**Contact Senators Casey and Specter-you can ask for them at the Capitol switchboard 1 888-436-8426-and tell them we must have health care reform this year that includes a public health insurance plan.**

**And then contact ACME's president Judy Spires by e-mail at [Judy.Spires@supervalu.com](mailto:Judy.Spires@supervalu.com) by phone at 610 889-4202.** Tell Judy that now is not the time to cut benefits and contributions. Tell her that now is the time to go back to the bargaining table and negotiate fair and reasonable health care with their union.

And tell her that, if ACME really wants to reduce health care costs, it should be fighting with not against its union. The United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1776 has consistently been one of the strongest champions of health care reform in Pennsylvania. It has been fighting not just for its own members, but for all of us who want to see everyone insured and health care costs controlled

Thanks for all you do.

Marc

Marc Stier  
PA State Director  
Health Care For America Now  
215 880-6142  
[MarcStier@hcanpa.org](mailto:MarcStier@hcanpa.org)