

Maine Healthcare is Human Right Campaign

Survey Organizing Instructions

Talking Points:

With this campaign we are hoping to change what is "politically possible" for healthcare in Maine through grassroots organizing and a strategic reframing of healthcare as a basic human right and the healthcare crisis as a human rights emergency. While our long-term goal is a universal, single-payer healthcare system, our focus in the immediate period is not on policy, but on educating, organizing and mobilizing the broad working class around the demand that healthcare is a human right.

The first phase of the campaign involves conducting surveys across the state, getting Mainers' opinions and personal histories with the healthcare system. We will then compile these surveys into a report, which we're going to present at public healthcare human rights hearings with testimony of "healthcare horror stories" and on the right to health.

The Purpose:

The Health Care is Human Right Campaign is all about grassroots organizing. The purpose of the survey is to guide people to have one on one conversations in their community about our common experiences in our failing health care system, and to come to a shared understanding that our right to health care is not being met.

Getting Started:

- Start with people you feel the most comfortable with- family, friends, co-workers, neighbors.
- You can bring it to groups and meetings you go to, but it is always best to fill it out with them, you reading the questions aloud and if its 1-on-1 you can write down their answers (in groups, it's still best for you to read the questions aloud and clarify any questions people have about that question).
- Remember this is first and foremost an organizing tool, a place where we can identify potential campaign leaders, people who want to organize with us and/or have had healthcare horror stories that we can use to highlight the need for a universal system.

Introduction:

Sample: "Hi, I'm _____, I'm volunteering with the (Maine People's Alliance, Maine AFL-CIO, Maine State Nurses Association, Southern Maine Workers Center, your organization) and we are doing a short survey with Mainers about healthcare.

Asking the Questions:

- Because this is an organizing tool, we want to make sure we are having good conversations with people. With this in mind, please don't hand the survey over and ask folks to fill out themselves. You should ask the questions and write down the answers.
- All answers are optional, but the more information we can gather, the more helpful the survey is to the movement. Try to get as many of the questions answered and as much of the story captured as possible
- On "About You" section, if questioned, you can mention we are producing a Report with the results of the survey, that's why we need that info.
- Make sure you write down at least their name, town, and phone number and that it is legible. The point of the surveys is to start a movement, and we can't do that if we can't follow up with people!

Ending the survey:

Ex. "Okay, great. That's the end of the survey. The Maine People's Alliance, Maine AFL-CIO, Maine State Nurses Association and others have launched a Healthcare Is a Human Right Campaign, and the first step is these surveys to learn more about what Mainers across the state think about healthcare and find folks who might be interested in getting involved. We will be holding human rights hearings, where we will put healthcare system on trial. In order to change what is politically possible, we need everyone to get involved. There are a

lot of opportunities for you to help, from writing a letter to the editor, helping us get more surveys, and speaking out at public forums. Can we count on your help?

Ways people can help:

- Have a few friends, family members, or co-workers fill out the survey.
- Write a letter to the editor on the health care crisis and why we need universal health care.
- Testify at the Human Rights Hearings in the fall or speak out about your story
- Make a donation to the campaign (make checks out to Maine People's Alliance for now)
- Think of 2-3 people who you think might want to get involved, any organizations you work with where people might be interested (work, faith, social, etc). [Write down who they say so we can follow up with them]
- Mark on the survey how they say they can help, so the organizer following up can start there!

Finishing Up:

- After you've said goodbye and thanks a lot to the person you've interviewed, make sure you record where and when you did the interview and your name in the data box on the back page of the survey.
- You should also rate the person on a scale from 1 to 4 and mark that down too.
 - 1 is someone who is really excited about the campaign and can't wait to get involved and start organizing.
 - 2 is someone who is interested in getting involved in the campaign and gives you their contact information.
 - 3 is someone who is generally sympathetic to the idea of Healthcare as a Human Right, but not really interested in getting involved (might just donate).
 - 4 is someone who does not believe that healthcare is a human right and generally disagrees with the premise of the campaign.
- Also mark down any interesting bits of information about the interview that you think are important. Try to write clearly so that other people can read the interview. You or another organizer on the campaign will follow up with them.

Make sure to get the survey back to the AFL-CIO or MPA so the data can be collected and we can follow up with people who filled out the survey!

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