

MichUHCAN

Michigan Universal Health Care Access Network

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Dear Members of the Working Group:

On July 12, 2006, I sent a response for MichUHCAN (Michigan Universal Action Network) to your initial Interim Recommendation Report. I refer you back to this letter as all of our comments continue to apply.

Your updated report, in some ways, is even more frustrating. It continues to support a fragmented approach to health care reform. The emphasis on catastrophic care in Recommendation 1 will mean that many people must suffer illnesses until they can be labeled “catastrophic” when earlier intervention could have been more helpful and cost effective. This approach will not decrease administrative cost in any meaningful way.

Recommendations 2, 3, and 4 are clearly activities that must be incorporated into an effective and sustainable universal health care system, but must be accompanied with a major change in the way we finance health care.

In Recommendation 6, you purport to agree that financing strategies must be fair, efficient and a shared responsibility and then proceed to outline options that are neither fair nor efficient. At the Michigan public meeting, many contended that a fair, progressive tax structure is the highest form of personal and corporate responsibility and that the government should collect the funds and act as the insurer. Too many insurance companies adding to the administrative costs of our system is literally killing us – 18,00 a year because they can't afford insurance. We applaud your commitment to comprehensive benefits. This is also a critical piece if we are to keep administrative costs at a minimum.

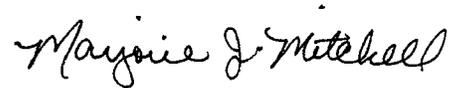


2.

In closing, we ardently hope that you will try again to present a bolder plan for change by listening to the cry of the American people for an affordable universal health care system now, not later. We have plenty of money, but must have a plan that gives us more health care for our dollar.

Thank you for the additional opportunity to express the feelings of our coalition on health care reform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marjorie J. Mitchell".

Marjorie J. Mitchell
President
MichUHCAN