



# The Retiree **ADVOCATE**

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PUGET SOUND ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS

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April 2012

**Dennis Kucinich at  
Highline C.C. Social  
Security Forum**

-- see flyer insert

## **Special Session: No long-term fix for state budget**

By *Mike Andrew*

As the *Advocate* goes to press, the legislature goes into its third week of a special session, hoping to find a way to close the state's \$500 million budget gap and create a reserve of an additional \$500 million.



**Mike Andrew**

The task will not be easy, especially if the legislature fails to look for new sources of revenue. Sadly, this seems like it will be the eventual outcome.

A budget passed by state Senate Republicans with the assistance of three Democratic defectors – Tim Sheldon, Jim Kastama, and Rodney Tom – aimed at balancing the state's budget with draconian cuts to services for our neediest residents.

The Republican proposal eliminates medical coverage for more than 15,000 low-income disabled individuals, adding to the existing 1 million people without health care in the State of Washington.

It cuts funding for our poorest residents on TANF by more than \$200 million, including the elimination of child care services.

It eliminates the State Food Assis-

tance Program, which provides food to 12,000 families a month.

It cuts more than \$40 million from the Housing and Essential Needs program.

It cuts Homeless Assistance.

It cuts funding for K-12 schools and higher education by more than \$75 million.

It cuts local governments' budgets by \$70 million.

It postpones pension payments of \$133 million for older teachers and state employees, and takes away \$17 million from the state portion of LEOFF pension contributions, under-

*Continued on page 5*

## **A lifeline in an hour of need**

By *Kathy Cummings*

It was August 11, 2001, one month before the infamous 9/11, when I got the call. I was in my mid 40's with a nine and 10-year-old and we had just relocated to Washington, DC. Suddenly, I was a widow. I hadn't gotten a job yet, in a city that was about to become paralyzed. Thankfully, I was surrounded by family and friends – but he didn't have insurance, and we, like so many, were living just a few paychecks away from the edge of a cliff. I literally had no idea what would come next.

I didn't even start looking for a job until the end of September. But by then all the doors were shut. No one was hiring – they were still waiting for another attack. Then someone said—



**Kathy Cummings**

what about Social Security – you must be eligible for survivor benefits.

When the first check arrived it was truly a lifeline. I was able to pick up freelance work here and there,

so I only got my benefits as a widow for one month. The children's benefits were a different story. We were able to stay in our little rental house, in a great school district, near my support system. The kids didn't have to suffer the shame of suddenly not being able to afford to pay the extra money for field trips, or to play sports. Sure, we

had to change our lifestyle a bit, but not drastically like we would have if suddenly we had to rely only on my income because I wasn't able to get a job until eight months later.

It wasn't a handout – it was a hand-up. We had paid into the Social Security System for all of our working years. My husband had never skipped a year – I had stayed home with the kids

*Continued on page 3*

**Dear Member:**

Please check the address label on the back page of your Retiree Advocate. See the date on the label? **When that date is printed in red**, it's time to renew your membership. Your prompt renewal saves us the cost of mailing reminder letters.

**Thank you!**

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For up-to-date information about PSARA and issues important to all of us, go to the PSARA web site: **www.psara.org** Read the Advocate on line, post your comments on our blog, engage in discussions with other PSARA members or visit PSARA on Facebook.

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### Need to reach us?

Here's a directory of Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Americans email addresses:

PSARA or its President,

**Robby Stern: president@psara.org**

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**Maureen Bo: adminvp@psara.org**

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**Bette Reed: outreachvp@psara.org**

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Government Affairs Committee Chair,

**Chuck Richards: legaffairs@psara.org**

Retiree Advocate Editor,

**Will Parry: pscsc@qwestoffice.net**

Our web page: **www.psara.org**

Web Master, **Reed Wacker: info@psara.org**

Or phone our office at **(206) 448-9646**.

If necessary, leave a message and your phone number. We'll call you back.

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### The Retiree ADVOCATE

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PSARA is affiliated with the Alliance for Retired Americans and the Senior Citizens' Lobby.

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## Reclaiming the American Dream Workshop

Monday, May 14th, 1:30 to 3:30 PM  
UFCW 21 Hall, 5030 1st Avenue South, Seattle

PSARA is sponsoring an interactive workshop led by PSARA Executive Board member Mark McDermott. The workshop will explore the historical roots of the victories and defeats of the American people to achieve greater economic opportunity and security, rights of working people, and a fairer tax system.

We will also explore the strategies used by the 1% and their political allies over the past 30+ years to roll back our hard-won rights and benefits that helped build and secure the American Dream.

Most importantly we will be discussing short- and long-term strategies to bring greater hope and justice back to our great nation.

This is our country and we need to take it back! Please attend and bring your family and friends. RSVP at 206-448-9646 or email us at [president@psara.org](mailto:president@psara.org)

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## Inslee speaks at June 21 meeting

Mark your calendars for 12:30 to 3 p.m., Thursday, June 21, at the Greenwood Community Senior Center, for our Summer General Membership Meeting. Facing big decisions, we will need membership support as we move forward.

Our featured speaker will be former U.S. Rep. Jay Inslee, heading into a hard fought race for governor. Inslee

will outline his vision for our state, with ample time for questions – but none for speeches from the floor!

Our potlucks are always savory and our meetings are lively. Please rsvp at [adminvp@psara.org](mailto:adminvp@psara.org) or call the office at (206) 448-9646, telling us what you're bringing for the potluck. See you June 21!

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## Opening the door to PSARA

When you recruit a friend into PSARA, you do more than move a notch closer to our 2012 goal of 275 new members. You open a door for that new member.

You open a door to the news and analysis the member will find month in and month out in The Retiree Advocate.

You open a door to PSARA discussion groups, where we both learn and teach, sharing the collective political experience of wise old heads.

You open a door to fun and food and friendships, to potlucks and picketlines, to rallies and marches.

You open a door to struggles for justice. To heartbreaking defeats, yes, but to heart-stopping victories as well.

Building PSARA starts with opening doors. With the simple invitation: "Would you like to join? We need you!"

Open enough doors and we'll come out of this vital election year with redoubled strength and our banners flying. Let every honest person know: Our doors are open! Join us!

# Back to square one with dysfunctional health system?

By Jeff Johnson

The U.S. Supreme Court is holding three days of hearings on the Affordable Care Act. Not since the 1965 Voting Rights Act has the court given a piece of legislation so much time for argument.



Jeff Johnson

since the 1965 Voting Rights Act has the court given a piece of legislation so much time for argument.

The stakes are high and emotions are high. Will the United States, with the most dysfunctional health care system in the industrialized world, continue on a path towards universal health care coverage or will the 100-year struggle to make health care a right and not a privilege begin anew?

The underlying premise of the case against the government, brought by 22 Republican State Attorney Generals — including Rob McKenna of Washington — and four Republican Governors, is quite simple. They argue that Congress exceeded constitutional authority by requiring individuals to buy health insurance coverage. According to this argument, forcing individuals to engage in economic activity violates the Commerce Clause in the U.S. Constitution.

Though the premise is simple, I believe that it is equally absurd. The government will make the argument that the “uncompensated consumption of health care” by those willingly or unwillingly without health insurance coverage is an economic activity that costs the country \$43 billion annually.

Every time an individual without health insurance goes to the emergency room, this results in the cost of uncompensated care being tagged onto the premium costs for the insured. It is estimated that the cost for family

coverage goes up by about a \$ 1,000 a year. This is a lot of economic activity.

In a March 21 opinion column in the New York Times, Linda Greenhouse wrote, “People who don’t want to buy broccoli or a new car can eat brussel sprouts or take the bus, but those without health insurance are in commerce whether they like it not.”

Over the weekend the Tea Party held a rally on the Capitol lawn urging the repeal of what they call “Obamacare.” Not to be outdone a group

of young activists, “Billionaires for Wealth Care,” joined in the protest, thanking the Tea Party members for supporting the profits they make through denying health care to millions and justifying the funding of the Tea Party by “billionaires.” The irony was not appreciated by all.

*Jeff Johnson is President of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, the largest labor organization in the Evergreen State and a member of PSARA.*

## A lifeline in an hour of need

Continued from page 1

for 6 years, but returned to work as soon as they were school age.

Mine is just one story of millions – but now in this time of fear-mongering and finger-pointing politics, the Social Security System has been dragged through the mud, tarred and feathered and now suffers the mantle of “entitlement program,” and worst of all “budget buster.”

The Republican budget submitted by Paul Ryan just this week suggests fast-tracking Social Security benefit cuts by turning it into a regular line budget item. Ryan also wants to raise the full retirement age to 69 and the earliest eligibility age to 64 – that’s a 13% cut in benefits. He is aiming to erode the link between earnings and benefits and turn Social Security into a welfare-like program. Thankfully, this budget won’t pass – at least not this year. But what about in the years to come?

We need to educate ourselves and every generation behind us about what a great, self-sustaining program Social Security is now – and can be in the future. The Washington state Social Security Works Coalition has been doing this with recent forums in Seattle and Everett. They’ve been educating people on just how easy it would be to stabilize financing for Social Security by stopping the practice of capping the tax we pay on our earnings, or Scrapping the Cap.

It is time for all of us to really understand how this simple fix to the system could preserve and even increase benefits for everyone. So, here is your chance .....there is another Social Security education forum on April 12th at Highline Community College in Des Moines.

This event features **U.S. Rep Dennis Kucinich**, an outspoken proponent of protecting Social Security, along with some terrific community activists who are knowledgeable on Social Security and who will definitely increase your understanding while making your evening enjoyable. Plan to join me at the event – and make sure you bring a friend, or think about inviting a young person – we really need to educate young adults and even those in high school on the importance of sustaining the Social Security System and protecting it so that it outlives us all.

Social Security saved my family when we were in a very dark time – we now need to work to save Social Security so that others have that safety net when their time comes.

*(Kathy Cummings is Communications Director for the Washington State Labor Council and a member of PSARA.)*

# Asking City Council for support

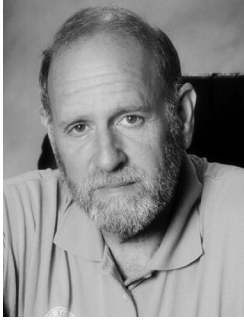
By Robby Stern

We all want access to quality affordable

home care for ourselves and our loved ones when we need it. That's what the Caring Across Generations campaign is about.

To launch Caring Across Generations in our community, we will be asking the Seattle City Council to pass a resolution of support for the campaign.

The flier inserted in this newsletter has a half page message directed to the Mayor and the Seattle City Council. We are asking our PSARA members to cut the flier in half. Keep the upper half to remind you of the exciting Social



Robby Stern

Security forum coming up. Then fill out the bottom half and mail it to the PSARA office, 2800 First Avenue, Rm. 262, Seattle, 98121. (Please mail it to the PSARA office, not to the Mayor and Seattle Council.)

These messages will be presented to the Seattle City Council in June, when the council discusses and votes on the Caring Across Generations resolution. The City Council resolution addresses the gap between the existing number of home care providers and the growing need for these providers as the baby boomer generation ages. It asserts our moral responsibility as a nation to care for the elderly and vulnerable, and it cites the benefits of enabling people with disabilities and those who are aging to remain in their own homes.

The resolution points out that those who care for others in the home need and deserve a living wage, and that they need the training that will enable them to

perform their demanding work in a quality manner.

To allow those who need home care to afford it, the resolution calls for the enactment of a long-term care benefit under Medicare and Medicaid. It also supports a Social Security care-giving credit for those who provide unpaid kin care, so that care givers are not assigned zero Social Security credit for their care-giving years..

Because many of those providing the care are documented or undocumented immigrants, the resolution calls for a pathway to citizenship available to immigrant workers who go through the training and provide the care.

The resolution directs the City of Seattle lobbyists at the state and federal level to support legislation that would implement policies consistent with the resolution. Step one in this historic nationwide campaign is simple: Please fill out that half page message and mail it to the PSARA office!

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## The plot to suppress the vote

By Rap Lewis

Since 2008, more than 30 states have changed their election laws to make it more difficult to vote. The shocking overall result, says New York University Law School's Brennan Center for Justice, could be the suppression of up to five million votes at U.S. polling places during the 2012 elections.

New state laws eliminate same-day registration on voting day, create higher hurdles for ex-felons, and restrict early voting.

Some new regulations are ridiculous: Requiring voters to bring their sealed naturalization papers to the polls. Requiring written evidence that registration at any previous address had been canceled. Limiting the availability of registrars to one of two Tuesdays a year.

At the heart of the campaign in nearly all the affected states is the requirement that voters present particular photo ID documents at the polls.

The new restrictions are clearly intended to deny the ballot to African Americans, Latinos, college and other youth, low-income and elderly voters. In each of these constituencies, a substantial majority of the suppressed votes would be stolen from Democrats.

"No state has ever attempted to disenfranchise upper-middle-class or wealthy white male citizens." Alexander Keyssar noted in *The New York Times*.

The new laws are patterned on model bills churned out by the American Legislative Exchange Council, or ALEC, the secretive organization, funded by the billionaire Koch brothers, where corporate honchos and right-wing legislators conspire to move all state legislatures to the right.

A delegation from the NAACP is traveling to Geneva to raise the issue of voter suppression with the United Nations Human Rights Council.

The NAACP has also presented the issue to the appropriate committees of Congress.

Senators Bernie Sanders (Independent, Vermont), Patrick Leahy (Democrat, Vermont), Richard Durbin (Democrat, Illinois) and Bill Nelson (Democrat, Florida) have asked the Government Accountability Office, the nonpartisan research arm of Congress, to investigate the impact of the new state laws.

"It is critical that we have an accurate picture of these recent state laws, individual access to voting, and actual instances of voter impersonation fraud," the senators wrote.

Alleged voter fraud is the flimsy rationale being used to justify the new laws. Studies have shown that voter fraud is virtually non-existent.

# Special Session: No long-term fix for state budget

Continued from page 1

funding the pension fund for uniformed officers by about \$150 million.

The Democratic counterproposal passed by the House protects some social safety net programs by putting off a \$330 million distribution to school districts.

Neither plan proposes to solve the state's ongoing budget crisis by raising new revenue to fund necessary state services.

Even after a grueling 60-day regular session, and with the prospects of a special session looming, House and Senate negotiators could not agree on a way to end the impasse, leading Governor Christine Gregoire to call for the special session.

As the special session concluded its second week, a third budget option surfaced, reportedly put together by Governor Gregoire and State Treasurer Jim McIntire.

As described by McIntire's office, this "third way" proposal would improve the state government's cash flow by changing the way sales tax revenue is distributed back to local governments.

As things stand now, sales taxes are collected by the state and go into the general fund. The next day, they are transferred into a special account where they are held until the end of each month. Then they are distributed to cities, counties, and mass-transit districts.

The Gregoire/McIntire proposal would keep the money in the general fund until the end of the month, transferring it into the special account just before it needs to be sent out to local governments.

This new accounting method would allow the state to keep sales-tax revenue in the state's general fund longer. That would not increase the state's revenues, but it would increase the amount the state assumes it has on hand to spend in a given budget period, and free up \$238 million for spending elsewhere.

The special session gives legisla-

tors 30 days to work out a budget deal and tie up loose ends of legislation not passed in the regular session.

Governor Gregoire hoped to streamline the process by setting up negotiations between the so-called "five corners" – meaning her office, and leaders of the Democratic and Republican caucuses in the House and Senate.

Together, Gregoire and the House and Senate leaders agreed on a short list of "to do" items, excluding other legislation from the agenda.

Among the items that will be taken up by the legislature will be repeal of I-728's mandate to spend extra money for lower class sizes in K-12 public schools.

Voters approved that class-size measure in 2000 but without a way to pay for it, and lawmakers keep cutting or skipping the payments every time there is an economic downturn.

Some revenue-raising ideas have been floated, and may come up for a vote, including local tax options for cities and counties to pay for transportation.

Another proposal would end a tax exemption for large out-of-state banks that do not pay B&O taxes on interest earnings from first-time home mortgages.

Other measures that would have benefited the state's working people will probably not come up for a vote.

SB 2501 would have restricted mandatory overtime for healthcare workers. It passed the House 57-41, but the Senate sent it back to the House Rules Committee.

HB 2395 would correct misclassification of short-haul truckers as independent contractors, which denies them basic employee protections including the right to collective bargaining. This abuse was highlighted by a bold two-week strike at the Port of Seattle by the truckers.

The measure passed the House 52-43, but was opposed by lobbyists for the Port and the trucking industry. The Senate sent it back to the House Rules committee.

HB 2368 would require that at least one member of every community college Board of Trustees represents labor. It was changed in the House to assure that each such board include both labor and business representatives, and then passed on a 54-43 vote. The Senate also returned this bill to the House.

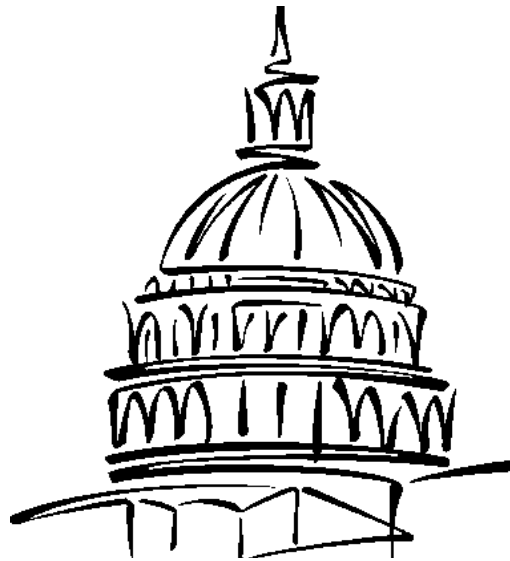
There are also measures sponsored

by conservative Democrats that stalled in the House or never made it out of the Senate. These could be revived as legislators jockey for a deal on the main budget proposals.

Sen. Jim Kastama of Puyallup wants the state to move to a new way of budgeting that would require a balanced budget to be sustainable over four years, rather than two.

Sen. Jim Hargrove has a proposal to change permitting rules for construction projects near waterways and also raises permit fees.

Sen. Steve Hobbs wants to create a new health-insurance pool for K-12 public school employees. The measure stalled on the last day of the regular session as Republican Sen. Mark Schoesler and others voted to delay it.



# State moves to set up health benefit exchange

By Teresa Mosqueda

Health care consumers scored a significant victory March 1 with the Senate passage of HB 2319, legislation implementing the federal Affordable Care Act and creating the Washington State Health Benefit Exchange.



Teresa Mosqueda

Sponsored by Representative Eileen Cody (D-Seattle) and Senator Karen Keiser (D-Kent), this critically important legislation will set minimum standards for the health plans and coverage to be offered in 2014, when much of the Affordable Care Act takes effect.

In that year, Washington's Health Benefits Exchange market place will be established, offering consumers a menu of private and federally-subsidized plans from which to choose.

Passage of HB 2319 brings the state one step closer to making sure our state's exchange will be ready on time.

Notably, HB 2319 will prevent insurance companies from cherry-picking only younger, healthier persons for coverage. To hold the industry accountable, a rating system will enable individuals,

families and small businesses to assess quality of care, access, services and outcomes.

Without the minimum standards established in the legislation, insurers would offer bare-bones, cut-rate coverage on the open private insurance market – operating outside the exchange – creaming the healthiest customers from the market, prohibitively driving up the costs of plans offered within the exchange.

Despite the support of Governor Christine Gregoire and Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler, passage of HB 2319 was in doubt during the weeks leading up to the Senate vote. An aggressive insurance industry attack failed to kill the bill in the House, where it passed, 52 to 43.

The bill got held up again in the Senate. Industry lobbyists – Premera, Regence and the Association of Washington Business, among others – lobbied in a pack from office to office to spread fear and misinformation about HB 2319, including dire predictions of increased costs and the demise of the insurance market.

The Healthy Washington Coalition (HWC), which includes PSARA,

brought the strong voice of health care consumers with daily lobbying on behalf of organizations representing victims of cancer, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS, as well as an array of unions and community organizations.

Insurance carriers committed to reform – Community Health Plan, Group Health Cooperative, Molina and Kaiser – helped counter the disinformation

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## HB 2319 will prevent insurance companies from cherry-picking only younger, healthier persons for coverage.

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campaign of the big insurers and major corporations.

On March 1, the Senate finally passed the bill, 27 to 22, a victory attributable in large part to the work of the bill's prime sponsors, Senator Keiser and Representative Cody.

Their efforts to create a public option along the lines of the Basic Health Plan were ultimately defeated. However, the battle is not over. We must come back next year to move our state closer to affordable health care for all. Stand by – we'll need your active voice and support again!

*(Teresa Mosqueda is Legislative & Policy Director for the Washington State labor Council & a PSARA member.)*

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## The "99%" Act from the Progressive Caucus

The Congressional Progressive Caucus has filed a bill to create more than four million jobs, while reducing the deficit by more than \$2 trillion over the next ten years.

The "Restore the American Dream for the 99 Percent Act" won't pass in the Republican-controlled House. But if it were enacted, it would ignite an economic recovery that would benefit the overwhelming majority of the American people.

Progressive Caucus Co-Chairmen Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) and Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.) outlined the legislation at a Capitol news conference.

The bill would create several "corps" to offer jobs to the

unemployed repairing school buildings, maintaining public parks, building energy efficiency and conservation projects, and providing health care and other services in underserved areas.

The bill would provide a health insurance "public option" in the exchanges to be established in 2014 under the Affordable Care Act. The public option, the sponsors say, would drive down health care costs by \$90 billion over ten years.

And last, but far from least, the bill would raise the cap on earnings taxed for Social Security above its current \$106,800, generating the funds needed to improve the program's benefits.

# A lively celebration of International Women's Day

A coalition of 22 women's, LGBT, minority and community organizations joined in sponsoring a lively celebration of International Women's Day at the Asian Counseling and Referral Service Building in Seattle March 10.

The crowd of about one hundred was entertained by drummers, dancers and a fashion show of women in attire from diverse cultures. Workshop topics included Intersecting Oppressions, Women and Media, Violence Against Women, Women and Economics, and Immigration Issues.

The afternoon concluded with a dinner featuring the cuisines of many countries, including those of Mexico and Ethiopia.

Recognized for their work in the community were Laura Pedroza from Enatre Hermanas; Shan Ottey, a local DJ; Glora Stancich, co-founder of Puget Sound Old Lesbians Organizing for Change; and Norma Timbang, a founder of the Asian and Pacific Islander Women's Family Safety Center.

International Women's Day is celebrated annually worldwide to highlight the contributions of women in every society, to celebrate women's diversity, and to promote networking, discussion and action.

-- *Aganita Varkentine*

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## Led by Vermont, 20 states weigh single player plans

By *Chuck Richards*

Much of the country is waiting this spring to see how the U.S. Supreme Court will rule on the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (PPACA).

Some of us are just as eagerly waiting to see how the Washington state legislature will empower the new Health Benefits Exchange Board as it prepares to offer, as of January 2014, affordable private insurance policies to many small businesses and uninsured individuals in our state.

So, now may be a good time to ask: how close are we to actually providing health care for everyone in this country who needs it?

President Obama has stated: "If your state can create a plan that (1) covers as many people (2) as affordably and comprehensively as the Affordable Care Act does (3) without increasing the deficit... you can implement that plan... and we'll work with you to do it."

Vermont is counting on this commitment to implement a state-based health care plan, Green Mountain Care, that will offer universal coverage. In Congress, Senators Bernie Sanders and Patrick Leahy have introduced S. 73, the "State Leadership in Health Care Act" to allow any state to enact

a state-based single payer plan three years earlier, by January 2014.

Which brings us home to Washington state, where single payer supporters have been promoting the Washington Health Security Trust (WHST) each legislative session since 2003. The WHST can be viewed on the legislative website as HB 1096/SB 5609.

Last summer the Washington State Labor Council passed a resolution endorsing the national Labor Campaign for Single Payer Healthcare. This coming summer will be a perfect opportunity for single payer advocates to sit down and review the state-based WHST before it is re-introduced.

Our common goal is to avoid "tiered" health care plans that offer

better coverage for the wealthy; to avoid government subsidies to private insurance companies that bust the state and federal budgets; and to offer a plan that can cover all workers regardless of employment status, cover all residents regardless of their legal status in this country, and cover access to any licensed provider a patient chooses. Single Payer plans are defined by offering truly high-quality, affordable and publically-funded health coverage for all.

*(Chuck Richards is president of Health Care for All Washington; a member of the PSARA Executive Board; and co-chair of its Government Relations Committee.)*

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**To Subscribe, go to . . .**

**<http://www.psara.org/membership.pdf>**

# Meetings and Events

**PSARA Government Relations Committee:** 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, Seattle Labor Temple, 2800 First Avenue, Rm. 226. Help plan PSARA's participation in Seattle City Council resolution supporting Caring Across Generations campaign. Also discuss how we will work to win support from Washington's congressional delegation for Scrapping the Cap. *All PSARA members are welcome.*

**PSARA Outreach Committee Discussion Group:** 1 p.m., Thursday, April 12, Greenwood Community Senior Center, 525 North 85th in Seattle. Discussion on current events.

**“The Threat to Social Security – An Issue for All Generations!”:** 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Thursday, April 12, Highline Community College, 2400 S. 240th St., Des Moines, Building 8, Mt. Constance & Mt. Olympus Rooms. Hear Rep. Dennis Kucinich, Pramila Jayapal, Leno Rose-Avila, and Marilyn Watkins. Sponsored by Social Security Works WA and several Democratic Legislative District organizations. *See article on page 1 and enclosed insert.*

**PSARA Executive Board Meeting:** 1 p.m. – 3 p.m., Thursday, April 19, Central Area Senior Center, 500 30th Avenue S., Seattle. *All PSARA members are welcome.*

**PSARA Outreach Committee Discussion Group:** 1 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.. Thursday, April 26, Green Lake Public Library, 7354 East Green Lake Drive North, Seattle. PSARA led senior and near senior discussion group on issues determined by participants. April discussion will be about the Affordable Care Act, Health Care and Medicare.

**“Reclaiming the American Dream – Learning From the Past to Build a Better Future”:** 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., Monday, May 14, UFCW 21, 5030 First Avenue S., Seattle. Sponsored by PSARA and Progress 21. Interactive workshop to help participants learn valuable lessons from our history that we can use to win a better future for us all. *See article on page 2.*

**Early Alert! PSARA Summer General Membership Meeting:** 12:30-3:00 p.m., Thursday, June 21, Greenwood Community Senior Center, 525 North 85 in Seattle. Guest speaker former representative and candidate for governor, Jay Inslee. Great potluck...Please rsvp to Administrative V.P. Maureen Bo at [adminvp@psara.org](mailto:adminvp@psara.org), or call the office, (206) 448-9646. Please let us know what you will bring for the potluck.

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Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Americans  
2800 First Avenue, Room 262  
Seattle, Washington 98121  
(206) 448-9646

## We are like...

...tenant farmers chopping down the fence around our house for fuel when we should be using Nature's inexhaustible sources of energy – sun, wind and tide. I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that.

-- Thomas Alva Edison, 1931