

"Ten Enemies of Single-Payer"

1. American Association of Retired Persons (AARP): This is one of DC's most powerful lobbying groups. It has worked inside the beltway for years to defeat **single payer [S-P]**. Why? **AARP** makes about a quarter of its money selling insurance through its affiliate, United Healthcare Group, the nation's largest for-profit insurance company. **AARP** must defeat **S-P**, which if enacted would wipe out that revenue stream.

2. America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP): This organization protects the interests of the private health insurance industry. It feels threatened by the current crisis in our nation's health care and widespread public demands for reform. **AHIP** is an aggressive and uncompromising opponent of **S-P**.

3. The American Medical Association: Only 25 percent of doctors nationwide belong to the **AMA**, the most conservative of the doctors' organizations. Numerous polls clearly suggest that the majority of doctors, and probably many belonging to the **AMA**, support **S-P**, while **AMA** President Nielson does not.

4. Barack Obama: The President was for **S-P** when he was a state Senator in Illinois. Now, ensconced in the corporate prison that is the White House, he **says S-P** is off the table. To get off the list, Obama needs to put **S-P** back on the table. Under pressure, Obama did invite two **S-P** advocates to a recent White House Health Care Forum.

5. Business Roundtable: This organization represents many major American businesses, and many of its members privately favor of single payer. But **BR** fears **S-P** reform for 3 reasons: a. It would not be in the interests of **BR**. b. **S-P** is somehow an un-American idea. c. **S-P systems allow workers to strike without fear losing of their health care coverage.**

6. Families USA: This is a major inside the beltway liberal foundation and long-time foe of single payer, but it favored **S-P** until early in the Clinton years. [**Families USA is not to be confused with Working Families, a strong labor organization.**]

7. Health Care for America Now: This is the largest coalition of liberal groups promoting a choice between a public plan and private insurance companies. This group claims that Americans don't want **S-P**, but that is untrue. **Polling data indicates that two-thirds of Americans support a single payer system. And that level of support exists despite the fact that there is little public discussion about it. [HCAN is not to be confused with Healthcare Now, a strong S-P advocate.]**

8. Kaiser Family Foundation: One of the most prestigious liberal inside the beltway think tanks on health reform policy. February's Newsday reported that **Kaiser**, funded initially by the insurance industry, denies **S-P** advocates a voice in the debate. When **S-P** advocates released a study in January asserting that Congressman John Conyers' **S-P** bill (HR 676) could create 2.6 million new jobs and would cost far less than the private insurance currently paid for by individuals and employers, the **KFF's** daily online report on health care didn't mention it. In fact, Kaiser regularly keeps single payer off the table.

9. The Lewin Group: This is the go-to consulting firm for health reform studies. The most recent study, widely quoted in the press showed that **the insurance industry would lose 32 million policy holders if a public plan were enacted.** What the mainstream press didn't report was that **The Lewin Group is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ingenix, which is in turn owned by UnitedHealth Group, the nation's largest health insurance corporation.** Lewin Group has conducted studies on **S-P** at the state level, and their studies consistently show that **S-P** is the most efficient cost saving system.

10. Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association of America (PHRMA): PHRMA claims that under **S-P**, the government would become a "price fixer." This means that the government as a **S-P**, would have the power to negotiate drug prices downward, thus costing the drug corporations millions in excess profits. In recent years, PHRMA has contributed funds to groups working to undermine **S-P** at the state level.