

# EQUAL Health Network: Mobilizing Public Health

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# The EQUAL Health Network

- The EQUAL Health Network advocates for Equitable, Quality, Universal, Affordable health care in the U.S. The campaign was established by the Center for Policy Analysis in 2008, building on networks in public health, women's health, labor unions, seniors and the faith community.
- Original members were single payer supporters who were also interested in the Congressional reform proposals.
- The listserve became an effective online vehicle for formulating and disseminating critical information and analysis.
- Members conducted in-person presentations.
- Participants became engaged and involved in the health reform debate in a way that they had not achieved through membership in national organizations.

# Corporate media



# How Will We Mobilize?

- Declining membership in unions and traditional civic groups
- Onslaught of corporate money in politics
- Rise of netroots
- How will we mobilize

# Enabling Factors

- Familiarity with processes, personnel, in Congress and Administration
- Network of advocates and analysts in California and DC
- Technical and analytical skills with legislation

# EQUAL and Health Reform

<b>EQUAL Activities</b>	<b>Health Reform Stage</b>
Email listserve and Website	Campaign to legislation
Published Criteria	Proposals
Analysis	Legislation in Congress
Dissemination; radio show	Counter media spin
Engaging community	Revive from February decline: Virtual March
Education, implementation	Enactment, threats to reverse

# Responsive to events

- During debates on abortion restrictions, reached out to contacts in Nebraska



# Listserve: Communication Resource

- Valuable resource for information, strategy
- Moderated
- Exploring formats to delve into issues and debates in depth



# Issues

- Single payer
- Public option
- Reproductive rights
- Passing the law

# Impact

- Kucinich ERISA Amendment:
- Moving the ball down the field

# Virtual March on Washington

- Reform considered dead after Scott Brown election in Massachusetts
- Grassroots call from EQUAL participants, and simultaneously from Daily Kos, to find a way to take action
- Collaborated with other groups to plan a one-day, simultaneous effort for a million contacts to members of Congress

# The movement we are building now is paving the way for social and economic justice and peace.

1.2 million messages in 8 hours to tell Congress and the President to pass comprehensive health reform.

We will have to keep fighting over the next few weeks

- \* to be sure that Congress passes health reform
- \* for a national public option and/or Medicare buy-in
- \* for reproductive rights

And over the next months and years for a single payer system that can truly cover everyone and control costs.

The movement we are building now is paving the way for social and economic justice and peace.

# Health Reform: It's Not What We Settle For, It's What We Build

# What Will We Build?

- Educate – see handout
- Implement
  - Medical Loss Ratio
  - Contraception as prevention
  - Abortion payments
- Improve
  - Undocumented
  - Single payer – state and national levels
- Netroots
- 501c4 - ?

# Work with EQUAL

- Join the EQUAL Listserv
  - Send a blank message to  
**[join-equal@list.equalhealth.info](mailto:join-equal@list.equalhealth.info)**
- See our website:
  - **[www.centerforpolicyanalysis.org](http://www.centerforpolicyanalysis.org)**

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