



Union members and activists rally for health care reform outside Rep. David Dreier's office

Health care battle hits home Protesters march at congressman's office

Members of UFCW Local 1428 joined their union sisters and brothers from UFCW Local 1167 and Steelworkers Local 7600 in a rally outside the San Dimas offices of U.S. Rep. David Dreier on Aug 17.

Some 40 demonstrators lined both sides of Foothill Boulevard to call for the Republican representative to support health care reform bills making their way through Congress.

Shouts of "Dreier's got health care, how about us?" and "Health care reform now, politics later!" rang across

the street in front of Dreier's office, answered by supportive honks from drivers passing by.

Rep. Dreier was not available to address the demonstrators' concerns, but his spokesperson, Jo Maney, told the *Daily Bulletin* that he had been listening to his constituents in town hall meetings throughout Congress' August recess.

The demonstration made the front page of the *Bulletin* the following morning.

In the past, Dreier has supported
(Please see page 5)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Health care system wasteful and costly

Note: The following editorial first appeared as a commentary by President Leyva in the *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin* in August.



Connie M. Leyva

President, International Vice President

As president... I have negotiated many contracts for workers at supermarkets and drug stores in the area around Pomona and Claremont.

Over the years, the rapidly rising cost of health care has been a thorny subject at the bargaining table.

Because they have a strong union, our members in the retail food and drug industries still have good health care, but they have given up much in the form of wage increases to keep it.

Responsible employers have provided affordable health care to their employees for decades. At the same time, their non-union competitors have shirked their responsibilities, letting the taxpayers assume the costs of treating underpaid workers in overburdened emergency rooms and clinics.

Have you been to an emergency room lately? That is where people who don't have affordable health care go to see a doctor, usually after the home remedies they have been using have stopped working. Once they arrive at the ER, they wait for hours and hours before someone can care for them.

This is a horrendously expensive and wasteful system for health care. A child who could have been treated with \$5 worth of antibiotics might now be suffering with pneumonia, needing treatments that cost thousands of dollars.

A failed system

Without health care, children go to school sick and infect other children. Their parents do the same thing in their workplaces.

Does anyone really believe that health care in our country is working?

The doctors and hospital administrators I've talked to don't believe it. My neighbors don't believe it. Young people who come down to the union and ask to add their parents onto their health care don't believe it.

I've had good health care my entire life. Both of my parents had good union jobs, and when I was old enough I got my own good union job at an Alpha Beta grocery store.

(Please see page 3)

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