



NJ Health Care For America Now
Rutgers "Let's Get It Done" Student Rally
Thursday, September 10, 2009 12:45 p.m.

Statement of James Woodson, Central Jersey Organizer, NJ Citizen Action

Good afternoon. My name is James Woodson and I am the Central Jersey Organizer for NJ Citizen Action, the State's largest, independent watchdog organization representing over 60,000 families and over 100 organizations across New Jersey. I'm also here today representing the Health Care For America Now (HCAN) Campaign, a grassroots alliance comprised of over 1,000 organizations representing over 30 million people in 46 states across the country. HCAN's goal is to pass health care reform in 2009 that guarantees high quality, affordable health care for all.

On behalf of all the organizations here today, Rutgers AAUP-AFT, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of New Jersey, the American Medical Students Association, Radigals, RU Choice, the RU-NAACP, the Public Health Institute and others – I welcome you to this Rutgers Student Rally for health care.

Last night, President Obama gave a passionate and rousing speech, outlining his vision for health care reform. He called for reforms that will guarantee all Americans have good, quality, affordable health coverage and directly took on the insurance industry and his political opponents who have engaged in fear-mongering in their attempts to block reform. But we know that reform can't wait. We need health care reform and we need it NOW.

If you need proof, just look at the facts. According to a March 2009 report by Families USA, nearly one out of three people in New Jersey under the age of 65 went without health insurance for all or part of the two year period 2007 to 2008 and nearly 2.4 million uninsured New Jerseyans went without health coverage for six months or longer during this same period. For these people, health care reform cannot wait another year. Something needs to be done now.

Today, we thank President Obama for his leadership and vision on this issue. We also thank New Jersey Senators Robert Menendez and Frank Lautenberg and Representatives Rob Andrews, Rush Holt, Frank Pallone, Bill Pascrell, Donald Payne, Steve Rothman, and Albio Sires for their support of real health care reform thus far and call on every Member of New Jersey's Congressional Delegation to support the passage

of health care reform legislation that guarantees quality, affordable health for all by the end of this year!

We know that the longer we wait to fix the broken health care system, the worse it's going to get. It's time for Congress to pass health care reform that:

1. makes health care more affordable for middle class families and businesses
2. keeps private insurance companies honest
3. gives us the choice of a national public health insurance option.

Anything less would be reform in name only. It's time for Congress to step up and get it done NOW!