



The Workmen`s Circle/Arbeter Ring New Jersey Region

Dedicated to Jewish Community, Yiddish Culture & Social Justice

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STATEMENT BY THE WORKMEN’S CIRCLE/ARBETER RING Congressman Rush Holt Signs on to Health Care for America Now Campaign October 16, 2008

Good morning. My name is Martin Schwartz, and I am the New Jersey Region Director for The Workmen’s Circle/Arbeter Ring, a national Jewish organization, founded more than a century ago by Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe as a mutual aid society that throughout its history has provided health programs and services for the American Jewish community. We are here today to express our appreciation to Congressman Rush Holt for publicly standing up for health care reform that will provide guaranteed, affordable, quality health care for all of us.

Even before the current financial crisis, Americans were facing a collapsing health care system resulting in 47 million people without insurance and millions more facing increased out-of-pocket expenses and fearful of losing their employer-based coverage. Unfortunately, access to quality health care in the United States has become determined by factors such as race and economic status, which, to use a Yiddish expression, is a shanda – a disgrace – for a nation as blessed as ours. The Jewish ideals regarding the value of human life and communal responsibility coupled with our obligation to strive for social justice compels us to advocate for a health care system that is available for everyone.

We therefore join Congressman Holt in calling on the rest of the NJ Congressional delegation – as well as all of our elected officials across the country to sign on to the “Health Care for America Now!” campaign for quality affordable health care for all.

In the words of the great sage Rabbi Hillel: “If not now, when?”

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