

THCC CALL TO ACTION SHEET

Our health care system is a mess, to be sure, but it is not hopeless. THCC is working on practical solutions for the short-term and long-term, and we need your help.

What can you do to improve and solve the problems associated with being uninsured? Plenty.

1. **Get involved in your community.**

Join the THCC Local Organizing Group (LOG) in your area. The LOG is made up of volunteers, like you, who are concerned about the state of health care and want to act for improvement. Key to providing health care for all is educating and inspiring citizens at the local level, and the LOG's work toward that end through local activities and by plugging into state and national events.

2. **Play it forward -- Host a screening of Collateral Damage: Bad Medicine in Tennessee.** Visit www.talkingeyesmedia.org for complete details.

3. **Support state initiatives.**

Contact your STATE senator and representative on the following bills, by calling toll-free 800-449-8366 and then listening for voice prompt to dial by last name; or go online @ <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/>

A. Join the call for a Health Care Study Commission.

Legislators are concerned about the one million uninsured and many hundreds of thousands underinsured Tennesseans, and that the current private and public health care offerings are not meeting the need. **Ask your STATE senator and representative to sign-on to and support SB 2046 and HB 1976.**

B. Dental care for kids.

Dental disease, which leads to cavities, is the most chronic disease in children and is 100% preventative with early and regular dental care. **Ask your STATE senator and representative to sign-on to and support SB 1194 and HB 487.**

C. Affordable care for the chronically ill.

THCC estimates that more than 100,000 Tennesseans with pre-existing medical conditions, including 67,000 who were cut from TennCare, are without affordable options to health insurance; therefore, are not getting the care they desperately need. **Ask your STATE senator and representative to sign-on to and support SB 744 and HB 646.**

C. Affordable living-saving drugs.

Access to proper medication is critical for those with chronic and severe conditions. Sadly, too many Tennesseans are having to choose between food and medicine, or mortgage and medicine. **Ask your STATE senator and representative to sign-on to and support SB 68 and HB 12, which would allow Tennesseans to save 50% or more on prescription drugs through the I-SAVE RX program. AND, ask your STATE senator and representative to support a budget amendment to double funding for the Cover RX Prescription Drug Program.**

4. **National Initiative**

Reauthorization with adequate funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)

It is universally agreed that SCHIP is a worthy program that has helped to insure millions of children since it began in 1997. **Ask your US Senators Alexander and Corker and your US Representative to support SCHIP reauthorization with \$50 billion in funding to keep the program going for the next five years.** Go to <http://www.congress.org/congressorg/directory/congdir.tt> to search by name or ZIP Code for contact info.

5. **Contribute to THCC's work.**

THCC is a nonprofit statewide consumer advocacy group that relies on generous financial support from people like you to fuel the work for health care justice. **Your donation is tax deductible, and truly appreciated.**