

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brenda J. Bacon  
FROM: Amy B. Mansue  
DATE: April 2, 1990  
SUBJECT: Citizen Action

*File HC Commission  
Info - Joke*

I recently attended a meeting with David Delvecchio and representatives from Citizen Action. They had a variety of issues they wanted to discuss, one of which was the health care commission. Attached is their recommendations for what they would hope to see come out of the Commission. They also asked to have a representative from their group on the Commission. I have already made a copy for Diane Lynch but thought you may also be interested in their information.

In a nut shell they believe New Jersey should provide: Universal and equal coverage; comprehensive benefits; effective cost containment; and uniformly high quality.

They are advocating a **universal** program which covers all citizens irregardless of ability to pay and absolutely no preexisting conditions clauses.

**Comprehensive Benefits** would include preventive, dignostic, rehabilitative and chronic care services for all illnesses. They also advocate that the individuals should have a choice of providers and should not be mandated to go to a particular doc or provider.

**Effective Cost Containment** as they define it includes the suggestion of setting a state health care expenditure budget. This would give the provider the opportunity to decide how to provide services within a set dollar guideline.

**Uniformly high quality** ensures that the same level of service is delivered to all disregarding their ability to pay and the type of service they are receiving.

**It is not necessary for you to do anything with this information.**

I have a copy and have provided Diane with a copy but I wanted to ensure that I made you aware of Citizens Action's concerns. It is very possible that they could serve as a strong ally in the battle we may wage next year to reform the entire health care system. They will have their people in key districts next fall for the elections and there is no reason the support of health care reform could not be one of the things they look at in deciding whether or not to support a candidate.



NEW JERSEY CITIZEN ACTION'S  
PLAN FOR STATE HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

New Jersey Citizen Action, the state's largest citizen coalition, calls upon Governor Florio to expand the focus of his proposed commission to study health care. We believe the Governor must charge this commission with developing a Universal Comprehensive Health Care System for New Jersey. The only way to adequately address the current problems in health care is by the establishment of a system based on the following four points:

\* UNIVERSAL AND EQUAL COVERAGE -- Health care must be provided equally, without discrimination, to all residents of the state. Families and individuals in need of health care should not be financially penalized because they are in need.

\* COMPREHENSIVE BENEFITS -- A comprehensive array of benefits must be available to all who need them. Such benefits include preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, rehabilitative, and chronic care services for all illnesses and conditions. Individuals should have their choice of health care providers.

\* EFFECTIVE COST CONTAINMENT -- Cost is a major culprit behind our current situation; any reform must enact effective controls on costs that are spiraling health care out of consumer's reach. We must eliminate administrative waste and inefficient medical treatment. The use of a single source payer of medical bills is a key. Controlling health care costs may require setting state health care expenditure budgets. This system could allow providers to decide how to best provide services within reasonable resource limits, instead of the current system which, in effect, rations care based on a patient's ability to pay.

\* UNIFORMLY HIGH QUALITY -- A system which assures maximum quality in all aspects of the health care system is essential. Unequal levels of care, based on ability to pay or type of need, must be eliminated. Data on the quality of care provided by institutional and individual providers of care should be readily available and intelligible for consumers.

NJCA believes that this commission should be made up of representatives of all major players in the health care system. It is imperative that the commission membership represent academics, health care providers, state agency officials, consumers groups, corporate leaders, representatives of organized labor, and key state legislators. It is important that public hearings be held so that the public is given an opportunity for input.