



Press Release for:

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Contact: Gary Zuckett

304-346-5891

Citizen Action & HCAN Applaud Sen. Rockefeller for fighting for REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

SENATE FINANCE VOTE: TEN SENATORS STAND STRONG DEBATE OVER PUBLIC OPTION MOVES FORWARD

Charleston, WV – WV Citizen Action Group joined [Health Care for America Now](#) to applaud West Virginia's Senator Rockefeller for his valiant support for Real Health Reform in proposing an amendment that would substitute a Public Insurance Option in place of state insurance co-ops. Both Senator Rockefeller's and Schumer's amendments failed but the Public Option did garner the support of ten Senators on the committee.

"Today Senator Rockefeller moved to guarantee good, affordable coverage to America's families and businesses by giving us a real choice and breaking the stranglehold that the health insurance industry has on our wallets and our lives. Senator Rockefeller's amendment for a public health insurance option means that private health insurance companies would have to compete, forcing them to lower costs and provide better care or risk losing customers. The public health insurance option will give us the peace of mind that no matter what happens we'll have access to affordable health insurance. We applaud Senator Rockefeller for taking our side and doing what's best for us, not the health insurance industry," stated Gary Zuckett, Executive Director of WV Citizen Action Group.

"We look forward to a robust debate on the Senate floor and we look forward to passage of legislation in the House that includes a public health insurance option," Zuckett said.

"Several other Democrats and all of the Finance committee's Republicans today voted to give the private health insurance industry a government-subsidized monopoly on health coverage which will only lead to higher costs, more denials of care and an increase in insurance company profits," Zuckett said. "No public health insurance option also means less choice for consumers. Senators have taken millions of dollars in contributions from the insurance industry, and today the industry was paid back – with interest."

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West Virginia Citizen Action Group, 1500 Dixie St., Charleston WV, 25311 304-346-5891

www.wvcag.org