

ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
PETITION TO THE 2006 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

**TITLE: SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL HOUSE RESOLUTION 676: UNIVERSAL  
HEALTH CARE**

**ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:**

1 The Rocky Mountain Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church declares support for  
2 passage of House Resolution 676, a measure that will establish a single payer universal  
3 healthcare system in the United States, and  
4

5 We wish to express this support via letter to the President of The United States of America, the  
6 Speaker of The House of Representatives, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and to  
7 each congressional representative from Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.  
8

9 **TEMPLATE OF LETTER**

10

11 <Appropriate Name>

12 <Appropriate Salutation (varies)>

13

14 Dear <Name>

15

16 The Rocky Mountain Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church wishes to declare its  
17 support for House Resolution 676, a bill that establishes a universal single payer healthcare  
18 system in America.  
19

20

21 The United States is the only industrialized country in the world that does not provide health  
22 insurance and healthcare for its citizens. As of 2004, 45.8 million Americans had no insurance.  
23 As medical bills are the leading cause on personal bankruptcy, denying people healthcare hurts  
24 our communities and our nation. Healthcare is a public good, like education, clean air and water,  
25 and fire and police protection- items that are necessary for Americans to thrive and prosper.

26

27 Our support is based upon ¶ 162, Section III of the Social Principles of the United Methodist  
28 Church, which states, "Healthcare is a basic human right." Passage of House Resolution 676  
29 begins the process of establishing this basic human right within the United States.

30

We thank you for your consideration in this matter.

31 Mr. Skip Strickland  
32 Secretary, Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Methodist Church

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34 Rev Linda Gertenbach  
35 Co-Chairperson, Church and Society Network: Advocating for Peace with Justice Committee

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37 Mr. Stephen Mitchell  
38 Co-Chairperson, Church and Society Network: Advocating for Peace with Justice Committee

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40 **RECIPIENTS OF LETTER**

41  
42 Mr. George Bush  
43 President of the United States of America

44  
45 Mr. Mike Leavitt  
46 Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

47  
48 Mr. J. Dennis Hastert  
49 Speaker, United States House of Representatives

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51 Ms. Diana DeGette  
52 Congresswoman, Colorado 1st District

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54 Mr. Mark Udall  
55 Congressman, Colorado 2nd District

56  
57 Mr. John T. Salazar  
58 Congressman, Colorado 3rd District

59  
60 Ms. Marilyn Musgrave  
61 Congresswoman, Colorado 4th District

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63 Mr. Joel Hefley  
64 Congressman, Colorado 5th District

65  
66 Mr. Thomas Tancredo  
67 Congressman, Colorado 6th District

68  
69 Mr. Bob Beauprez  
70 Congressman, Colorado 7th District

71 Mr. Rob Bishop  
72 Congressman, Utah 1st District  
73  
74 Mr. Jim Matheson  
75 Congressman, Utah 2nd District  
76  
77 Mr. Chris Cannon  
78 Congressman, Utah 3rd District  
79  
80 Ms. Barbara Cubin  
81 Congresswoman, Wyoming At Large

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2006

**TERMINATION DATE:** June 30, 2007

**ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION**

Church and Society Network: Advocating for Peace with Justice Committee

**PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:**

**Name:** George F. Dunn  
**Address:** 8089 Vermejo Peak  
Littleton, CO 80127  
**Phone Number:** 303-972-7751  
**E-Mail:** gedunnsr@msn.com

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Yes, included in budget of Church & Society Network.

**RATIONALE: Not debatable**

83 Per ¶162, Section III of our Social Principles, a part of our Book of Discipline. The United  
84 States is the only industrialized country in the world that does not provide health insurance and  
85 healthcare for all its citizens. It is the only industrialized country where loosing a job usually  
86 means losing your health insurance, and losing health insurance may mean no healthcare;  
87 therefore, people with large medical bills risk bankruptcy and homelessness. As of 2004, 45.8  
88 million Americans had no insurance (US Census Report). Tens of millions of others have  
89 inadequate insurance or insurance that could end with loss of a job. There are 772,000 people  
90 who are uninsured in Colorado alone. The negative social and economic consequences affect not  
91 just the uninsured, but their families, their communities, and our whole country.

92  
93 Support for universal healthcare is building in many parts of the country on both the grassroots  
94 and political levels. Many faith communities, medical societies and businesses have called for  
95 universal healthcare. House Resolution 676 was introduced by Representatives Conyers and  
96 Kucinich and is now in several House committees for review and a vote.

97  
98 There is a moral imperative for universal healthcare. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said “Of all the  
99 forms on inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane.” Denying people  
100 healthcare, especially in a nation as rich as ours, not only goes against the teachings of  
101 Christianity and other religions to heal the sick and care for the poor, it goes against fundamental  
102 democratic and humanitarian values.