

<i>In This Issue:</i>	Threat from Iran ...3
Congress Watch ...1	Global Citizen3
Healthcare Debate .1	TDU Debate4
Tortured Logic2	Alternative Energy ..5

For information or to volunteer call:
847.266.VOTE (8683)

Or write to:
Hon. Lauren Beth Gash, Chair, Tenth Dems
P.O. Box 523, Deerfield, IL 60015

Visit the website: www.tenthdems.org
Newsletter: newsletter@tenthdems.org

Editors: Barbara Altman, Susan Friedman,
Allan Sperling

Editorial Staff: Hon. Lauren Beth Gash, Carol Hillsberg, John Hmurovic, Adrienne Kirshbaum, Mary E. La Plante, Ron Levitsky, Leslie Lipschultz, George Rosenblit, Steve Sheffey, Laurie Kaplan Singh, Marla Sundh

Photography: Ravi Ganapathy

Design: Terry Wrem Jones, Rich Lachman

Distribution: Glenn Stier, Dave Du Bordieu, Cosette Winter

The opinions expressed are those of the writers, and not necessarily endorsed by Tenth Dems

Healthcare, Front and Center



For months, Illinois Senator Richard Durbin, Majority Whip and a key Democratic spokesperson in the push for meaningful healthcare reform, has been sending mixed signals about his position on a public health insurance option. In a September 13 television appearance on *Meet the Press*, Durbin argued persuasively for meaningful healthcare reform but stopped short of saying that a public option was an imperative. "Failure to pass...healthcare reform this year will make things overwhelmingly worse. Those who are opposing us...don't have an alternative," he said.

Responding to the question, "Is the public option now buried and gone?" Durbin emphatically said, "No," and added that he supported it. Still, he did not say he would settle for nothing less than a bill that included a robust public option. "What we're looking for is real competition.... A public option means that people will have a choice in markets where there are only a handful of private health insurance companies and people have nowhere to turn." (For the full transcript of Senator Durbin's

continued on page 6



Tenth News

www.tenthdems.org

OCTOBER 2009

Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter

Volume 6, Edition 10

The Healthcare Debate Rages On

by Marla Sundh

On September 16 in Lincolnshire, Tenth Dems University joined with WCPT-AM/FM (Chicago's Progressive Talk Radio) to host the event "Reforming Healthcare: Can We Afford the Status Quo?" Newly appointed State Representative Carol Sente of the 59th District welcomed a large audience, including numerous elected officials and candidates for office.

Leading the agenda was a powerful presentation by the Concord Coalition, a widely respected nonpartisan organization working to eliminate federal budget deficits.

This was followed by an interactive discussion with nationally recognized healthcare experts, including Dr. Quentin Young, National Coordinator of Physicians for a National Health Program; David Dranove, Distinguished Professor of Healthcare Management at the Kellogg School of Management; and moderator Michael Millenson, a nationally recognized healthcare consultant. The roundtable featured a lively discussion of market-driven and single payer and public options.

Concord Coalition speakers Diane Lim Rogers, the organization's chief economist, and Sara Imhof, Midwest Regional Director, talked about

the current state of the economy, in which the government has become the "lender of last resort." The weakening of the job market, housing market, and banks has been a wake-up call to the American people and their leaders, who may be ready to return to an era of fiscal discipline.

For the past 40 years, healthcare expenditures in the United States have more than tripled. When healthcare costs rise faster than other costs in the economy, problems are created. Add to that all of the waste that currently exists in our healthcare system, and one can begin to see the magnitude of the problems.



Continuing the discussion, Dr. Young, who has been a fierce advocate for the single payer method of healthcare insurance and

has spent considerable time promoting this option to members of Congress, reported that in 2009, the ongoing problem of millions of Americans without health insurance contributed to the deaths of 45,000 people. This figure is startling evidence that we need to fight the insurance lobby, which spends millions to curry favor in Washington and adds 32 percent to healthcare costs as profit. Prof. Dranove went on to remind the audience that the healthcare debate has been going on since 1932, when President Herbert Hoover wanted to construct a prevention program for Americans. He went

continued on page 8

The Tortured Logic of Dick Cheney

by Ron Levitsky

A few weeks ago, my younger daughter, who is a grad student in the Twin Cities, came home for a visit. We had a chat about her boyfriend, movies, swing dancing, vegetarian cooking, and torture. A psychology student, she's writing a paper regarding the long-term effects of torture on its victims. She shared what her background readings had revealed about the ingenious methods interrogators use to maximize their cruelty. Shaking her head, she asked, "How can they be human?"

As we enter the ninth year of the War on Terror, our nation still has not come to terms with that question. Due in part to six years of legal action by the American Civil Liberties Union, documents have been released demonstrating that our government condoned and even encouraged the torture of terror suspects. Victims' testimony given to the Red Cross include the following:

"I was then dragged from the small box, unable to walk properly, and put on what looked like a hospital bed, and strapped down very tightly with belts. A black cloth was then placed over my face and the interrogators used a mineral water bottle to pour water on the cloth so that I could not breathe."

A CIA memo revealed that one man was kept awake for six straight days. Wearing diapers the entire time, he stood with his arms chained above heart level, putting him at risk for blood clots and a stroke. According to Andrea Northwood of the Minneapolis-based Center for Victims of Torture, such treatment "...causes people to feel absolutely crazy."

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed the Convention Against Torture. The U.S. Senate, encouraged by President George H.W. Bush, ratified the Convention in 1992. This document criminalizes torture and authorizes the investigation and prosecution of those committing torture.

Yet, because of 9/11 and threats to national security, the George W. Bush administration not only utilized torture but used the state secrets doctrine to hide its actions. Of course, these activities weren't called torture. Like the Inquisition that named the ritual surrounding its sentence of punishment as *auto de fé* ("act of faith"), the Bush administration used a variety of euphemisms, such as "extraordinary methods of interrogation," "aggressive" or "enhanced" interrogation, waterboarding, and rendition (kidnapping and sending suspects abroad to be tortured by or for Americans).

Former Vice President Dick Cheney has vehemently defended these brutal techniques. Based on recently released CIA documents, some opened at Cheney's urging, he claims that "...individuals subjected to enhanced interrogation methods provided the bulk of the intelligence we gained about al-Qaida." His logic tells him that, because we tortured suspects and they provided information, such methods are necessary. This logic is simple, direct...and deeply flawed.

John Helgerson, former CIA inspector general and the man who wrote the report on the agency's interrogation tactics, states, "You

could not, in good conscience, reach a definitive conclusion about whether any specific technique was especially effective, or the enhanced techniques in the aggregate really worked."

President Obama seems to be listening to Helgerson. He has banned waterboarding. He has supported the creation of a special interrogation unit, from agencies including but not limited to the CIA, which will follow military guidelines that forbid the use of torture. He has also directed the State Department to gather data on effective



programs to stop torture and assist victims. The Center for Victims of Torture estimates that approximately 500,000 survivors of torture worldwide now live in the United States. And Attorney General Eric Holder has named federal prosecutor John Durham to investigate whether CIA agents used illegal methods to interrogate suspects (although agents who operated "in good faith" won't be prosecuted).

However, there is hesitancy on the part of the Obama administration to live up to its earlier unequivocal opposition to torture. For example, it has

continued to use rendition. Reversing an earlier position, it is appealing a federal court order requiring the government to release photos showing U.S. soldiers abusing prisoners. And it seems unwilling to hold accountable those who ordered the use of these brutal and illegal methods. The fear is that, with so many other important issues—such as healthcare, the economy and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan—the nation cannot afford to be divided over the question of how terrorist suspects were handled. CIA Director Leon Panetta wants us to "stay focused on the future," and President Obama has said, "This is a time for reflection, not retribution."

Yet, that kind of thinking not only gives a de facto pass to grossly immoral and illegal behavior, it also goes against the best interests of our nation. Colonel Steve Kleinman, a career military intelligence officer, has stated, "We absolutely have to look back, otherwise, if we're attacked again or we get into a conventional war, we run the risk of the same problems. It's not just human rights. It's operational. We squandered opportunities to collect vital intelligence [because we used torture]."

It is instructive to study what happened to another nation that earlier used torture extensively in fighting a war against terror. From 1954-1962, France engaged in a desperate and brutal struggle against those battling for the independence of Algeria. These freedom fighters or terrorists, depending on your point of view, viciously murdered unarmed civilians, including women and children. In response, the French army made liberal use of what it termed "*passé a la question*"—"to put to the question," that is—torture. Perhaps the definitive history of this conflict is *A Savage War of Peace* by British historian Alistair Horne. According to this book, from time to time, the French army's use of torture yielded useful information that did abort future terrorist acts (for example, see the beginning of *The Battle of Algiers*, the classic film dealing with this war). However, even though the French were winning the conflict

continued on page 7

The Threat from Iran

by Steve Sheffey

George W. Bush's follies in Iraq are well known to readers of this newsletter, but history may judge his greatest foreign policy failure to be his failure to stop Iran from becoming a nuclear power. In eight years, Bush took no military action against Iran, made no serious efforts to build an international alliance against Iran, destroyed Iran's natural enemies on both sides (Iraq and Afghanistan), and failed to impose tough economic sanctions against Iran. Bush also rejected requests from Israel for aid in attacking Iran, should that become necessary.

Remember when we were kids playing baseball and the kids who made the first two outs would blame the kid who made the last out for losing the game? That's where we are now. Bush failed in both terms to stop Iran. Bush struck out twice—looking. Now, Obama is at bat in the bottom of the ninth and we are losing. Let's hope—for the sake of America, for the sake of Israel, for the sake of world peace—that Obama hits one out of the park.

Israel may have no choice but to take military action if the United States does not use tough diplomacy and economic sanctions to stop Iran. Yossi Klein Halevi wrote that "The French philosopher Andre Glucksmann has noted that, by threatening to destroy Israel and by attaining the means to do so, Iran violates the twin taboos on which the post-World War II order was built: never again Auschwitz; never again Hiroshima. The international community now has an opportunity to uphold that order. If it fails, then Israel will have no choice but to uphold its role as refuge of the Jewish people. A Jewish state that allows itself to be threatened with nuclear weapons—by a country that denies the genocide against Europe's six million Jews while threatening Israel's six million Jews—will forfeit its right to speak in the name of Jewish history."



Fortunately, President Obama and the Democratic Congress recognize the urgency of the situation. Senator John Kerry (D-MA), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in May that a "nuclear-armed Iran could spark a nuclear arms race in the world's most dangerous neighborhood. When we say that a nuclear-armed Iran is unacceptable, we mean it."

Stopping Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons should be at the top of the peace agenda and should be the number one foreign policy objective of the United States. Kerry's counterpart in the House, Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Howard Berman (D-CA) explained in September that the "world would be changed irrevocably for the worse if the Islamic Republic of Iran were

continued on page 7

10 Ways to Be an Engaged Global Citizen, Part II

The care of human life and happiness and not their destruction is the first and only legitimate object of good government.

Thomas Jefferson to Maryland Republicans, 1809

by Mary E. La Plante



Last month, I examined a few simple action steps we can all take to become actively engaged global citizens. In this month's newsletter, I offer five additional ideas on how to be a more actively involved participant in the global community,

and a better-engaged global citizen. I write to you from London, a city I've frequently traveled to on business for more than 20 years. Friends and business acquaintances here in London continually question me about U.S. policies. With regard to gun control and healthcare, I'm hearing today essentially the same questions about U.S. policy that I was asked 20 years ago. Herewith, five additional ways to be a better-engaged global citizen:

1. Advocate for better gun-control laws in the U.S. Here in the United Kingdom, one of the first questions I encounter has to do with our lax gun control laws and our violence-filled society. The British are shocked at how easy it is to obtain a gun in the U.S. and alarmed at the exposure of young people to potential violence in school and in the streets.

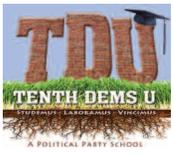
You can be a moderate voice in the arena by making your voice known to your elected officials. Write a letter; make a phone call; speak out on stricter gun-control laws. The National Rifle Association (NRA) has a website that tracks the voting record of elected officials. Log on and learn how the organization closely monitors elected officials' political stance regarding gun control. Then, take action to make your voice known.

2. Tony, an English venture capitalist friend and a political conservative, peppered me with questions concerning some Americans' hostile reaction to President Obama's proposed healthcare reform. "Don't they realize that 46 million Americans are uninsured?" And, when I told him the cost of my father's recent hospital stay, he was again incredulous: "What do people do?" My father is fortunate in that his hospital costs were covered; but for those without coverage, what do they do?

The Census Bureau reports that in 2008, 46.3 million people went without health insurance, a figure that only increases each year. What you can do is try to understand the issues driving the healthcare reform debate and then contact your elected officials to voice your support for reform. More background about healthcare reform, as well as information about how to contact your elected officials, are available at the Tenth Dems website, www.tenthdems.org.

3. The Iraq war is another issue of grave concern to my British

continued on page 7



Spotlight on Healthcare Fuels Spirited Tenth Dems U Debate

by Carol Hillsberg

Now, we can choose to do nothing. That is an option. We can say that, you know, we're just going to muddle through, primarily because everybody in this chamber has health insurance. I don't think that's an option. I don't think muddling through and pretending as if the problem doesn't exist or characterizing attempts to deal with the problem, in broad strokes, as socialized medicine is going to address the real needs of these families.

On May 19, 2004, Illinois State Senator Barack Obama spoke these words as he fought to reform healthcare in the state of Illinois. What he accomplished then was the passage of a bill to create a task force to study how to cover 90 percent of the uninsured in Illinois by requiring everyone to buy insurance and offering subsidies to those who couldn't afford to. The costs of the program and the debacle of the Blagojevich impeachment ultimately doomed this effort.



Martin Redish offers his thoughts about healthcare reform.

That was then; this is now. And, the sense of exasperation over the misinformation and the lack of clarity in the current healthcare debate dominated the discussion at the Tenth Dems University's "Let's Talk Politics" session held in Highland Park on September 8, at Bella Via Restaurant. Now, just as in 2004, the hope is that Barack Obama will be able to win over the unsure and quiet the naysayers with the power of his rhetoric and the justice of his cause.

In Highland Park, Herb Brenner moderated a freewheeling discussion that covered the difficulties of achieving healthcare reform, including the distortion of the facts about this issue and others related to President Obama. Several participants expressed concern over the inability of the President to clarify his position on the liberal-conservative spectrum in general and on healthcare in particular. There was concern that Obama has been too nice, that there has not been enough pushback against the right-wing crazies like Rush Limbaugh, that being so high-minded, the President has let himself be shaped by events. Others stated that it's good to take the high road in this debate. Several participants faulted Republicans for giving tacit approval to the shouting extremists by not challenging their tactics and ideas. They feel that the center has disappeared and that the irrational fringe controls the GOP.

Comments included the following:

- Obama should make his position clear and stick to his guns.
- Obama should have advocated a single payer plan so that he could negotiate from there and achieve what he really wants, including a public plan.
- True healthcare reform is Medicare for all.
- Proponents need a memorable, catchy one-liner, such as "Everyone in, nobody out," attributed to Jan Schakowsky.
- Call the White House at 202-456-1111, talk to an actual human being and express your opinion about healthcare reform.

Healthcare dominated the discussion, but other issues were addressed as well. To many participants, controversy over the President's remarks to students on the day after Labor Day was troubling and emblematic of a much deeper problem in our country. The refusal to broadcast the speech in some schools was condemned as indefensible and driven by insidious factors. One participant suggested an investigation of what decision each school board or superintendent made in this matter. After all, the President's speech simply urged students to study hard, to listen to their teachers, and to stay in school. In fact, the speech seemed right from the Republican "family values" playbook. It was argued that bureaucrats in education who shied away from broadcasting the speech were more interested in covering their rears than in inspiring their students to do the right thing.

One astute observer drew the following distinction between the intimidation during the McCarthy witch hunt in the 1950s and the intimidation now. In the former, the irrational hatred came from within the federal government. Now, the foment comes from outside of government, albeit with the tacit consent of many Republican office-holders. Another attendee emphasized the importance of attracting the media's attention to the positive aspects of the debate.

Tenth Dems Chair Lauren Beth Gash reminded participants of President Obama's tremendous successes since taking office in January. Former Highland Park Mayor Dan Pierce made the same point, citing the President's proven leadership in achieving passage of the stimulus bill and the budget. The hope of many who attended this Tenth Dems event was that the same will be true in achieving healthcare reform in the United States.



Alternative Energy Now!

by George Rosenblit

This is the fifth article in a series seeking to investigate and report on sources of energy and their relationship to public health and global warming. Future issues of the Tenth News will report on hydroelectric, solar, wind, wave, tidal, and geothermal power, and biofuels as a source of power.

It's truly amazing how much has been done in the diverse field of alternative energy already. Successful sources for alternative energy for a "green" environment are in place today and more are being explored and improved upon. We will examine the methods, their current state of development, and the role they are expected to play in our future.

However, the success of utilizing alternative sources of energy depends on whether we can economically transmit the power they generate to where it is needed.

The Electric Power Grid

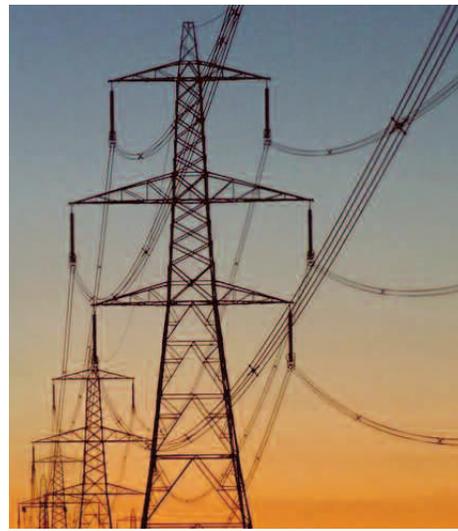
In the U.S., electric power is transmitted over a network consisting of about 186,000 miles of lines operated by about 500 companies, called a "grid." Grid may refer to the entire national network or to any part of it, even to the local level.

There's a lot of coordination among power companies to assure that the frequency of the electricity is synchronized, i.e., at 60 cycles, to optimize transmission, and that power can be balanced in parts of the grid to prevent blackout or brownout (large scale power failures) as was experienced on Aug. 14, 2003, when many in the northeastern

U.S. learned that they couldn't take reliable electric service for granted anymore. A utility in Ohio failed to trim a few trees, causing a surprise outage that rolled across the region. Eventually, it left 50 million people without power for about a day. The risk of blackouts still exists in just about every region of the country.

Locally, a standby substation is available to provide power when an operating substation fails or is under repair. But in larger parts of the grid, we are more vulnerable because many lines are running close to capacity and because of our inability to quickly build transmission lines where we have congestion. Without big changes, the grid will become increasingly unreliable within just a few years. The vulnerabilities are most evident in parts of the country with high population, like New Jersey, New York, and Washington, D.C., on the east coast and cities like Los Angeles and San Diego on the west coast.

The existing grid also is not ready for a future that includes more wind and solar power. That's because keeping a grid running is a delicate balancing act—to avoid outages, the amount of power you put in must equal the amount taken out. So, the electricity you're using right now was created just a few seconds ago—most likely at a coal or gas-



fired plant that an operator can ramp up or down to meet demand. But renewable energy sources, like wind or solar power, don't produce a continuous level of power. On some days, you would be lucky to predict wind within 10 percent efficiency.

We need to replace manual control with computer controls, the basis for a "smart grid" which would also be capable of giving

customers and the utility a lot more information about how and when energy is used. In the future, customers will be able to use their laptops to change settings for their appliances and their heating systems. Also, customers who install solar or wind power at home will be able to sell excess power back to the utility company.

President Obama proposes to double the supply of renewable energy within three years. But as Congress translates this grand plan into legislation, lawmakers should resist calls to add an extensive and costly new transmission system that would carry electricity from remote areas like Texas, the Great Plains, and Eastern Canada to places with high energy demands like Boston, Chicago, and New York. This idea is being promoted by energy companies and by elected officials who see it as an economic development opportunity for their particular state or region. Long-distance transmission lines are needed, they argue, to ensure that the president's energy goals are met. But the cost of a new power line in New England is estimated to be \$2 to \$10 million per mile; some estimate that the country will spend up to \$200 billion dollars building a new electric grid. Most of that money will be spent in rural America, as new transmission lines are strung to connect the wind turbines on the plains to the cities.

There are better—and cheaper—ways to get more clean power flowing to the big cities, by utilizing renewable energy resources closest to these cities. They are found all across the country. They don't need to be harnessed from just one place. In the Northwest, the largest amount of green power comes from hydroelectricity. In the Northeast, the best source may be the wind over the ocean because it blows harder and more consistently there than on land. Offshore wind farms have been proposed for Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Rhode Island. In the Southwest, solar energy can be tapped on a large scale. And in the Midwest and Southeast, biomass from forests may one day be a major source of sustainable power. In each area, developing these power sources would be cheaper than piping in clean energy from thousands of miles away. (See *New York Times*, "Home-Grown Power" by Ian Bowles, March 7, 2009.)

With regard to emerging alternative energy sources, there are many other problems to consider. Political jurisdictions—city, county, state—have their own rules and regulations that could impede installing new power transmission plants. The 500 U.S. power companies must agree to changes that affect their local operations. And cost-effectiveness must always be taken into consideration to keep the price of electricity within reason. Environmental groups have opposed installing lines through pristine forests. And many farm owners also object to lines being built on their property. For example, there is already resistance to a transmission line that is planned to cut 460 miles across New Mexico and Arizona. Some 400 landowners in

continued on page 7



Healthcare experts Michael Millenson, Dr. Quentin Young, Prof. David Dranove, Diane Lim Rogers, and Sara Imhof lend their expertise to a wideranging roundtable discussion in Lincolnshire on September 16.

Healthcare, Front and Center *continued from page 1*

statements on *Meet the Press*, go to [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/32812029/ns/meet_the_press/page/2/.](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/32812029/ns/meet_the_press/page/2/))

Durbin's ambiguous remarks echo similar statements coming from the President and his key advisors, leaving Democrats and Republicans guessing at their underlying intent. Many believe he is now setting the stage for a compromise in which a robust public health insurance option is sacrificed. Others, however, suspect that the ambiguous statements are aimed primarily at keeping negotiations open.

Illinois' junior senator, Democrat Roland Burris—long viewed as a lame duck since he was appointed in the midst of scandal by former Governor Rod Blagojevich to fill President Obama's old Senate seat—has pleasantly surprised advocates of a public option by taking a clear stand on the issue. On September 17, Burris announced his intention to vote against any bill that doesn't have a public plan. "I firmly believe in a public option and will oppose any bill that does not include one. Illinoisans have seen their insurance premiums skyrocket while more and more families lose their coverage every day," Burris said.

The Tenth Dems' close friend and neighbor, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (Illinois, 9th District), is chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus' healthcare task force and a key advocate for a public option. "Many believe that if the White House wants House progressives to compromise further on the public option, it will turn to her first," Brian Beutler noted in a September 3 "Talking Points Memo." (See <http://tpmdc.talkingpointsmemo.com/jan-schakowsky/>).

Schakowsky doesn't appear to be budging. "Many members of Congress—including myself—will not support a health insurance reform bill that does not break the stranglehold of private insurance companies on our healthcare system. That requires that consumers have a choice of a robust public health insurance plan," Schakowsky said. "I will support nothing short of a robust public health insurance plan upon implementation—no triggers. I believe Congress will pass and the President will sign such a bill this fall." (See <http://tpmdc.talkingpointsmemo.com/jan-schakowsky/>).

In stark contrast to these Democratic leaders, incumbent 10th District Republican Congressman Mark Kirk continues to do the bidding of the insurance industry, holding carefully orchestrated, participant-screened town hall meetings. Designed a la Frank Luntz, the architect of the Republican strategy for killing healthcare reform, Kirk's meetings rely heavily on the dissemination of misinformation, doublespeak, and scare tactics to stop any real healthcare reform (See "A Town Hall Meeting Orchestrated by Frank Luntz," *Tenth*

News, Aug. 2009, http://www.tenthdems.org/newsletters/0907_nl.pdf and "Kirk's Voting Record Will Be Exposed in Statewide Election," *Tenth News*, July 2009, http://www.tenthdems.org/newsletters/0908_nl.pdf.) Kirk's top priority for his last term in the House, it appears, is to see to it that the insurance industry continues to reap excessive profits while denying Americans quality healthcare.

The Candidates on Healthcare Reform

The three candidates in the race for the Democratic nomination to represent the 10th District in the House of Representatives state their positions on healthcare reform.

Julie Hamos

Our healthcare system is unsustainable in its current form. We need to take dramatic steps to bring down costs and improve access to care. I believe a comprehensive reform package should include health insurance reform, a public option, and more efficient healthcare services. I am confident that President Obama will sign a law this fall. But it will be up to Congress to monitor and improve upon that law for years to come. The next congressional representative for the 10th District should be committed to working with area residents to make sure healthcare reform delivers on its promise of creating a system that is high quality, affordable, accessible to everyone, and sustainable over the long term.

Elliott Richardson

Healthcare reform is the paramount issue of our time. The inaccessibility of the current system is both a great injustice and a grave threat to our nation's economic viability. I would like to see a self-sustaining public option that, without eliminating private insurance companies, brings competition to the marketplace. Health insurance costs have become unsustainable, making healthcare reform the paramount issue of our time. We need to decrease the cost of healthcare and make it available for the millions of Americans who currently can't afford it. This is the greatest country in the world; affordable healthcare should be accessible to all Americans.

Dan Seals

I have been a long-time advocate of a public option. Private sector insurers are driven by profits. Because some patients just aren't profitable, millions of Americans are denied coverage and are forced to go without health insurance. A publicly run insurance program would have no profit incentive and therefore could cover more people. Evidence from existing government-run healthcare programs also indicates that a public insurance program will have lower administrative costs and a greater ability to buy medicine at reduced rates. Finally, by providing coverage for those who currently have no health insurance, a public option will reduce costs for those who currently have health insurance. Under the current system, the insured pick up the tab for the uninsured.

rural central Texas showed up for a meeting to protest a new transmission line that would require a 20-mile long, 160-foot wide trail to be clearcut through ranch land near the Lampasas River. Two hundred people in Livermore, California, turned out to protest a 600-mile transmission line that would run through the farms and vineyards of Alameda County. Similar protests have cropped up elsewhere in California and in New York.

Solutions are on the horizon

In some areas, state and federal authorities are working through the conflicts that the transmission-line boom is creating. In mid-June, federal and state officials in the west signed an agreement pledging to work together to protect wildlife corridors used by migratory animals such as pronghorn, caribou, mule deer, and elk.



Meanwhile, Congress may give the federal government the power to override state decisions about transmission line routing. In June 2009, a Senate committee passed legislation that “would give the federal government authority to override state objections to expanding electricity transmission lines,” according to a Reuters report, and the energy bill passed by the House contains funding for new

transmission lines. (See “Power Line Frenzy Hits Rural America,” published on *Daily Yonder*, June 29, 2009.)

Next month, we will discuss hydroelectric power and other alternative forms of energy that could be transmitted through these power lines.

Threat from Iran *continued from page 3*

nuclear-capable. Merely by possessing the bomb, even without using it, Iran would emerge as the intimidating force and the political powerhouse, the hegemon of its region—not to mention the arms race it would set off, as states like Egypt and Saudi Arabia would attempt to secure their own nuclear bombs.”

“And, regarding Iran,” Berman continued, “We’re not talking about a regime that has the same calculus—that same sense of restraint—as we do about the use of such a weapon. This is a regime that sent tens of thousands of children to certain death—its own children—as human mine-sweepers during the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s. This is a regime whose ex-president, as Nita (Lowey) mentioned—the so-called moderate Ali Rafsanjani—has boasted openly that Iran would win a nuclear exchange with Israel. This is a regime, as we have witnessed once again in recent weeks, whose brutality against its opponents knows no limits. And, at last, the world has begun to acknowledge the extent of its repressiveness.”

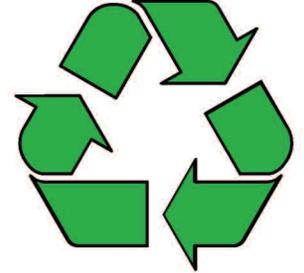
That’s why The Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act (H.R. 2194 in the House and S. 908 in the Senate), which empowers the president with the authority to limit Iran’s ability to import and produce refined petroleum products by imposing sanctions on foreign companies supplying Iran with these resources, is so important. Iran imports nearly 40 percent of its gas and diesel needs. This Act was introduced in the House by Berman (D-CA) and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL).

Those of us for whom peace is a priority must continue to focus on the threat from Iran, and support the president’s efforts to do all that is possible to stop Iran before the only option left is the military option. How ironic that by launching a war of choice against Iraq, Bush may have laid the groundwork for a war of necessity against Iran. Let’s hope and pray it does not come to that.

friends. Civilians and soldiers from many different countries continue to die on a daily basis; the U.S. and its allies are engaged in a seemingly endless war that was fueled at the outset by false data and a destructive political agenda.

Please continue to speak out and be a peaceful activist on this subject. Educate yourself about the unspeakable situation there by speaking to returning veterans. Contact your elected officials and ask that they support an end to war.

4. Be an engaged global citizen by taking care of Mother Earth: Recycle, reduce waste, and compost! My friends Tony and Judith live in Berkshire, in an idyllic village on the Thames. On a recent visit to their home, I learned that their local council supplied all residents with compost bins and instructions on how to compost. “Save your egg shells and banana peels after breakfast,” my friend Judith instructed me. And then this fashion-forward public relations executive threw this waste into the compost bin and happily told me how wonderful it feels to help the environment. Go to <http://www.howtocompost.org/> to learn more.



5. Engaged global citizens realize that they have an obligation, a duty to pass on their knowledge to younger generations. My venture capitalist friend Tony, after a long, illustrious and brilliant career, now spends his time directing a government initiative that mentors budding entrepreneurs.

What knowledge do you have that could benefit a younger person? What issues do you see in your neighborhood, community, or state that could use your knowledge and someone else’s energy? Whether you volunteer in your place of worship, community center, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, The Cara Program (job training for the homeless) or a vocational school, or a grassroots political organization like the Tenth Dems, someone could be waiting for you to share your talent, skills, and knowledge. Europe has a long history of apprenticeship programs; they’re still around today because they work.

All in all, it’s easy to be an engaged global citizen. Remember: Voting is just the beginning!

Tortured Logic of Dick Cheney *continued from page 2*

militarily, they eventually lost the war and withdrew from Algeria.

According to Horne, the French lost the war largely because they engaged in the very same kind of interrogation techniques that the Nazis used against many of them during World War II. He asserts unequivocally “...that torture should never, never, never be resorted to by any Western society.” He gives four reasons:

1. Americans often get the impression from movies and television programs like *24* that torture is absolutely essential to protect our society from terrorism. However, it’s quite common for victims to give false confessions or admit to imaginary plots in hopes of stopping the torture. Such misleading information can only be counterproductive to intelligence gathering. Former Governor and Navy Seal Jesse Ventura recently said, “...you give me a waterboard, Dick Cheney, and one hour, and I’ll have him confess to the Sharon Tate murders.”

2. Although torture may lead to preventing some terrorist activities,

continued on page 8

Visit our website
for new features

TenthDems.org

The *Tenth News* is distributed free monthly via email to our list of subscribers. Receiving the newsletter by email is the most efficient and fastest way to keep up to date with events and news in the Tenth Congressional District. **If you take delivery via bulk rate mail, you may receive the *Tenth News* as much as two weeks after publication.** Sign up for email delivery at www.tenthdems.org.



Tenth Dems
P.O. Box 523
Deerfield, IL 60015

Paid for by the Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats, P.O. Box 523, Deerfield, Illinois 60015, and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
HIGHLAND PARK, IL
PERMIT NO.199

The Healthcare Debate *continued from page 1*

on to say that because he has consulted with governments all across the globe, he has come to the conclusion that no system is perfect, wherever you may live. For instance, people who get their



healthcare free use it more freely, thus causing prices to rise. And because this is such a complicated issue, even he admits that none of the various options on the table right now has won him over.

The debate rages on, but one thing is indisputable. Healthcare reform is one of the most important issues of our time, and an unprecedented number of Americans are thirsting for information.

Tortured Logic of Dick Cheney *continued from page 7*

many innocent people, caught in a military sweep and tortured, may later become terrorists and carry out successfully even more plots. As the great French novelist Albert Camus wrote, "...one should never fight for a good cause with evil weapons."

3. Torture demoralizes those who inflict the pain as well as those who have endured it. Perpetrators are even less likely to receive counseling than their victims. In years to come, will the perpetrators' families become yet another set of victims?

4. Torture dishonors the nation and demoralizes those agencies and institutions (such as the Army) that engage in these brutal acts.

In his preface to the 2006 edition of his book, Horne mentions that in 2005, at the request of Donald Rumsfeld's staff, he sent a copy of *A Savage War of Peace* to the Secretary of Defense, "underscoring the evils of torture." Horne received a courteous reply but unfortunately made no strong impression on Mr. Rumsfeld.

Perhaps it's time for Mr. Horne to send a copy of his book to President Obama.

Technology Donations Needed

The Moraine Township Democrats are looking for donations of relatively new computers (Pentium 4 or better), flat screen monitors, and laptops. Please call (847) 433-8344 for details.