



MEDIA ADVISORY

June 24: Largest Faith-Inspired Mobilization for Health Care Reform

Media contact: Kate Bigam
202.387.2800 | kbigam@rac.org

Thousands of individuals of varying religious views will gather on Washington, D.C.'s Freedom Plaza in support of health care reform

Among the pressing challenges facing our nation, the health care crisis stands out as the most immediate legislative endeavor that can be decisively influenced by a consortium of religious voices. Acting on this belief, nearly 2,000 people representing more than 40 national faith organizations and religious denominations will gather on Washington, D.C.'s Freedom Plaza in the largest faith-inspired mobilization to ever happen around health care reform.

Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and more will join together on June 24th in an **Interfaith Service of Witness and Prayer** to express strong, unified support for health care reform. Similar "echo events" will occur nationally throughout the week as part of the Interfaith Week of Prayer for Health Care Reform.

A health fair will take place before the service, beginning at 4:00pm, when the Carl Vogel Center will offer free health screenings as part of its "Get Healthy DC Program." Live music will be provided by the GospelGrass Group of Westmoreland Congregational Church, singing a blend of gospel and bluegrass music.

WHAT: Interfaith Service of Witness and Prayer in support of national health care for all

WHEN: Wednesday, June 24, 2009
4:00pm, free health care screening & musical performance
5:00–7:00pm, Interfaith Service of Witness & Prayer

WHERE: Freedom Plaza, Washington, D.C.

WHO:

- Keynote speakers:
Rabbi David Saperstein, Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
Dr. Sayyid Syeed, Executive Director, Islamic Society of North America
Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr., Pastor *Emeritus*, Riverside Church, NYC, and Executive Director, The Healing of the Nations Foundation
Sister Simone Campbell, SSS, Executive Director, NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
- Call to action: **Rev. Tim McDonald**, First Iconium Baptist Church, Atlanta GA

For more information and a list of health care events occurring nationwide, visit www.WeBelieveTogether.com.

For up-to-the-minute details, follow us at [Twitter.com/BelieveTogether](https://twitter.com/BelieveTogether).

Growing list of national organizational sponsors includes:

African Methodist Episcopal Church
American Association of Pastoral Counselors
American Muslim Health Professionals
Association for Clinical Pastoral Education
Association of Professional Chaplains
B'nai B'rith International
Buddhist Peace Fellowship
Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good
Catholics United
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Coalition on Ministry in Specialized Settings
College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy
Disciples Justice Action Network (Disciples of Christ)
The Episcopal Church of America
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Faithful Reform in Healthcare
The Gamaliel Foundation

The General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
The General Board of Global Ministries, Women's Division, United Methodist Church
The Healing of the Nations Foundation
HealthCare Chaplaincy
The Hindu Temple Society of North America
Interfaith Worker Justice
Islamic Medical Association of North America
Islamic Society of North America
Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association of Jewish Chaplains
National Baptist Convention, Home Mission Board
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.
National Council of Jewish Women

NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
The Network of Spiritual Progressives
PICO National Network
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
SOA-Watch
Sojourners
The Southern Christian Leadership Conference
Tikkun Magazine
The Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc.
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
The United Church of Christ
Vesper Society
Women of Reform Judaism