

## ARONOWITZ CALLS FOR UNIVERSAL, SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

New York, August 8, 2002 – Stanley Aronowitz, the Green Party candidate for Governor, renewed his call today for New York to adopt a single payer, universal health care system, following a new report by the United Hospital Fund that shows 1.7 million New York City residents - 25% - lack health insurance coverage. Statewide as many as three million New Yorkers lack health care coverage.

"Health care must be a right, not a source of profit. We need to scrap the Managed Care system and return to that movement derailed by Bill and Hillary Clinton back in 1993--Single Payer, or National Health Insurance (NHI). By eliminating the insane duplication of the current system, by removing competition and the profit motive, and by making health care the responsibility of democratically elected institutions instead of private corporations, we can reduce costs while providing universal access," stated Aronowitz.

Aronowitz noted that while recent state initiatives such as Family Health Plus and Child Health Plus have expanded access to health care coverage, they have been incremental improvements that have left millions without health care coverage while expanding the control of Health Maintenance Organizations that increase profits by rationing health care.

"The Democrats and Republicans have conspired to turn health care over to gigantic corporations for whom the well-being of individual patients, families and communities is strictly secondary to the making of money. Profiteering is the root of the evil of the health care system," added Aronowitz.

A single-payer health care proposal by NYS Assemblyman Dick Gottfried (NY Health) has languished for the last decade, not even being passed by the Democratic-controlled State Assembly in recent years. With private health insurance, 30 cents out of every dollar goes to paperwork and profits, not to providing health care. A single payer system works like medicare, with one program paying all bills, while preserving freedom of choice as to your medical provider. By eliminating the bureaucracy and insurance company profits, billions of dollars would be saved by a single payer system; these savings could be invested in providing health care to those presently uninsured.

"Our country needs full Medicare for everyone with free choice of doctors and hospital by patients," Aronowitz said. "Any health care payment system should also stress prevention of disease and injuries. The massive savings from a single-payer system would be more than enough to provide universal coverage for the same amount as the state and nation pays now for an inadequate health

care system that leaves more than 45 million Americans -- with 10 million added under the Clinton-Gore Administration -- with no health care coverage."

Under the current system, Aronowitz said unnecessary and fraudulent billing, administrative costs for health-care vendors and huge profits and bloated salaries at large HMOs and other health care companies would be eliminated.

He described the current system as a "disgrace to our democracy." "The U.S. is the only western nation that does not provide health insurance coverage for all its people. The U.S. pays more per person for health care than any other country in the world," Aronowitz noted. "Yet, according to the World Health Organization, the U.S. is ranked 37th in the overall quality of health care."

Aronowitz, Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Urban Education at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, is the Green Party candidate for Governor. The Greens are committed to ecology, grassroots democracy, nonviolence and social and economic justice.

For information on the Campaign visit: [www.stanleyaronowitz.org](http://www.stanleyaronowitz.org). **To book an interview with the candidate, call David Lerner at (212) 260-5000.**