The Council for Health and
Human Service Ministries

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
#BeAVoiceCHHSM

BE A VOICE SUMMARY: HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

All Be A Voice Health and Human Service Advocacy Toolkit sections are on the advocacy page listed on the bottom of this summary.

BACKGROUND:

- In 2013, more than 44 million people in the United States were uninsured; now, with the passage of the Affordable Care Act and with the full provisions having gone into effect, 20 million people have gained coverage. With changes to eligibility and significantly expanded access to Medicaid, there is evidence to suggest that the ACA has reduced racial and ethnic disparities in coverage.

CURRENTLY:

- Simply preserving and protecting the ACA has been a tremendous uphill battle; and the changes that were implemented are critical for millions around the country. The reliance on the private insurance marketplace means costs are not contained, and without Congressional action, costs will continue to go up. Moreover, in the United States, the high cost does not guarantee better care.

- For more than 35 years, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has advocated for health care as a right and a priority for all people. The Christian scriptures and tradition understand that addressing the general welfare of the nation includes giving particular attention to people experiencing poverty or sickness. For their sake and for the common good, we must continue to make progress toward a U.S. healthcare system that is inclusive, equitable, affordable, accountable, and accessible for all.

- General Synod 29 adopted a two-fold policy statement which asked UCC members to support the passage of legislation to provide health care for all and to address the implications of health disparities and inequities through study and discussion. The UCC and CHHSM also have endorsed the Medicare for All Act, which would provide every person in the United States with full health coverage.

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES:

- Access to healthcare should not be a privilege and every person, regardless of ability to pay, should be able to access inclusive, affordable, accessible, and accountable health care. How can you help make that happen?

- Ask candidates in state, local, and federal elections about their health care plans. Ask what they will do for your community to make sure everyone has access to quality, affordable health care.

- How will you protect access to health care now for your constituents, and what plans do you have to preserve and protect access?

- Do you support Medicare for All?