Jewish groups co-sponsor meeting with legislators on health care

Central Reform Congregation sent over a news release about an upcoming meeting with legislators about the Affordable Care Act (ACA). March 23, 2012 will mark the second anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (PPACA). March 26, the U.S. Supreme Court will begin oral arguments on several court cases challenging provisions of the ACA.

In Missouri, efforts to implement the ACA have been marked by partisan sparring and gridlock. In response, a coalition of faith and community organizations, including five Jewish community organizations, is holding a Public Meeting with the goal of helping legislators and the community understand the ACA and the need to implement it quickly.

“As someone who has been denied health insurance due to a so-called ‘pre-existing condition,’ I know how bad the current system is and how bad needs reform. Missouri needs to cut through the politics and implement the Affordable Care Act as quickly as possible,” said meeting planner Leslie Caplan, a cantorial staff member at Central Reform Congregation (CRC) and is also active in Missouri Health Care for All (MHCA). “We need our elected leaders to have the courage to do what's right and to see the ACA through implementation.”

Barbara Finch, Program Chair of Women’s Voices Raised for Social Justice, added, “We know that legislators have questions about what’s actually in the Affordable Care Act. We are coming to this meeting to help educate Members of Congress and Senators about what's in the law and why we need them to make implementation a priority.”

Rev. Allen Ladage with Missouri Interfaith IMPACT stresses that health reform is a moral issue. “We have been advocating for health reform since before this law was even written. But at the end of the day, health reform isn’t about politics. It’s about protecting the dignity and well-being of every person, and it’s about saving lives. It’s up to us to remind our legislators of that.”

The program is free and open to the public. Jewish community co-sponsoring organizations include Central Reform Congregation Shaare Emeth, Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis, Jewish Family & Children’s Service, and St. Louis Interfaith Committee for Action.
What: Public Meeting to Discuss Health Reform in Missouri with Legislators

When: Sunday, March 25, 3-5 pm at Congregation Shaare Emeth, 11645 Ladue Road in Creve Coeur

Who: St. Louis Metro-area State Representatives and Senators

Leaders and members of 16 co-sponsoring organizations