

Louise Currin, AFT-Oregon Vice-President Political Action said she was impressed by Oregon Representative Peter DeFazio's stand during her recent Washington, D.C., trip to advocate for health care reform. DeFazio took time to personally meet with Currin and other union representatives from Oregon including Kathy Bonogofski, Local 6732 (OSEA), and Tom Chamberlain, President Oregon AFL-CIO.



“I have been impressed with DeFazio's positions over the years,” said Currin. “He's concerned about how rates will be set, and agrees that there should be no taxation on health benefit plans; that employers should be paying their fair share; and that a strong public option must be part of the package.”

AFT called on Currin and others to participate in a Health Care Lobby Day in Washington, D.C., as a last attempt to urge Congress to pass health care reform that would include a public option. In addition to DeFazio, the Oregon team met with staff in Representative Kurt Schrader's office, and also Senator Jeff Merkley's. According to staff, both believe in a public option, and are opposed to taxing employer-provided health care benefits.

There's still time to urge Congress to support health care reform. Please take a moment today to make two calls. One to Senator Wyden and one to your Congressman. And of course, encourage all of your coworkers, fellow members and friends to do the same. Call 1-877-323-5246 and follow the recorded instructions to be routed to your Representative.

Tell Congress that real healthcare reform MUST:

- Control costs and not tax our benefits.
- Provide guaranteed coverage to all Americans.
- Include a public health insurance plan option.
- Hold insurance companies accountable.
- Require all employers to pay their fair share.