

## It's time to "Know your Investments:" Plan for Constructive Divestment-Investment

Single payer advocates know these numbers:

- 45,000 adult deaths due to lack of insurance.
- 62% of all personal bankruptcies due to medical illness and cost.
- US ranked #1 in spending and #37 in health outcomes in the world.
- Health care costs rising 2.5% faster than GDP.

Ironically, many of us do not know our personal investments, and we are both supporting and profiting from the very corporations we are fighting. This is a conflict of interest and it is time to set that right.

Over the past several decades, as the insurance and other health corporations became "for profit", they mostly became stock or equity commodities working our health system deeply into the financial markets. This has taken the retirement savings of many healthcare, university and other workers into an ethical wasteland.

Uncovering information about insurance corporation holdings from investment funds is difficult. However, we know that almost all mutual funds and the large funds of retirement plans are heavily invested in insurance corporations.

The first step in knowing your investments is to look at your portfolio. If you aren't certain about the contents, take time to look it up or schedule a meeting with your financial adviser.

Let your adviser know that you are interested in socially responsible investments (SRI's). You can find information about SRI's on the internet including criteria for examining your portfolio. Start with

Then you can choose to roll your investment over to an SRI fund, or you can ask your financial adviser to become socially responsible within a defined time period (perhaps by 2014) or you will move your funds.

Or maybe you want to join the new trend in local investment. Visit <http://cuttingedgecapital.com/>

## Here are 6 reasons to know and move your investments:

**1. It is proper for single payer supporters to lead by example and divest from insurance companies.** We should do this in a public manner. We need to make known the entire scope of bad influence that the insurance industry has and encourage the public to join us.

**2. We should not support the health insurance industry takeover of other health sectors.** It appears that health insurance corporations are hedging their insurance business by diversifying their holdings and investments into other health care areas. This defensive movement should be recognized and we should not participate in it.

**3. It is easy to move our investments to socially responsible investment funds.** There are readily available means such as "rollover" transfers that are simple, safe and usually costless. Even a partial move of our funds to avoid the investment of them in the insurance industry would be important.

**4. There is a history of activism through socially responsible investment.** For many years there have been funds that exclude investments of funds from tobacco and some other issues. In the 1980's, there was a major action to exclude funds from involvement with the apartheid government of South Africa. Today, we face the apartheid of private health insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, VA and the ACA and the emergency room .

**5. Investigating socially responsible investments with your contacts and advisors will increase awareness.** Many investment business people are just now learning about this system. They often need stimulation and demand for this information and service.

**6. Socially responsible investments perform equally to "comparable funds."** The main line industry's defensive position has usually been to claim that the funds of an organization must be invested at the highest possible rate of return -- within safety. Actually, it is well known that all funds, particularly business equities, are naturally and essentially speculative. Most funds are very diverse and difficult to compare. However, there have been some studies of socially responsible funds which have generally

shown that they perform equally to “comparable” funds. This information is clear but is often unknown or ignored by investment advisors, brokers, etc.

### **The power of this initiative depends on you!**

This is a complicated but worthwhile endeavor and your participation is important. This campaign will further frame public knowledge of the issues of single payer reform. People do know that there are good and bad investments. The action of thousands of single payer supporters could become a major influence on health system reform. And we show our commitment to health by investing in the public's health.

### **You have choices!**

- You can participate at a personal level by moving your investments.
- You can participate at a more public level by writing and talking about divestment.
- You can join the Divestment Working Group which will investigate and take more general actions on the huge funds such as those of TIAA/Cref, unions, religious organizations, and university endowments and will take collective action such as shareholder resolutions and “constructive engagement” with the management of these organizations. Visit <http://www.healthcare-now.org/campaigns/divestment>.

To learn more about the Know Your Investments campaign and to get involved, contact:

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**Be an ethical investment single payer advocate!**

**rollover** | ˈrɒl ˌoʊvər |

noun

**1** Finance the extension or transfer of a debt or other financial arrangement.



### **Rollover your investments, not in your grave!**

Are you working to create a future in which everyone in the USA has universal, lifelong, comprehensive, and high quality health care?

Are you fighting to remove for-profit health insurance and other corporations from your practice and pocket?

Are you planning to leave some of your hard earned investments to your heirs?

Well, someday, someone might just realize that you fought the fight but quietly profited from investments in the same corporations you were fighting. No! No! No!

**Instead of rolling over in the grave with embarrassment, you have choices!**