

STUDY CIRCLE #6

Understanding Change • Making It Happen

I. Welcome: Coming together and settling in with a brief reading or contemplative activity.

II. Overview: Social and political change occurs only within the “window” of ideas and attitudes that are acceptable to most people in a given population. Pressure to change our health care system is growing. How might we, as citizens, influence the shape of this change?

III. Group Discussion on Readings:

- After reading about the Overton Window can you think of any examples of this phenomenon?
- How does this “window” relate to the health care debate in this country?
- Who are the change agents in our society? What roles do they play?
- Who defines the issues?
- Where and how do morality, democracy and economics intersect”?
- As “citizen think tanks” how can we become change agents?
- Is our nation’s political “window” large enough to contain a health care design that is affordable, accessible and just?

IV. Group Exercise – Goals and Solutions

- Review the results of the forms from Study Circles #2 and #4. Use poster papers to list them for everyone to see.
- Are there any changes you want to make at this time? If so, make them.
- Now, as a group, try to reach consensus on your Top FIVE Goals and Solutions.
 1. Use a third sheet of poster paper to collect the group’s suggestions.
 2. As a group, select the top five from this larger list and list them on the fourth sheet. (The facilitator provides a method to tally the responses. Show of hands? Secret ballot? Dots?)
- The group organizer should fill out this final form and send it with the forms from Circles #2 and #4 to the indicated address.

V. Being an Engaged Advocate for a Reformed Health Care System

I Count • I Care • I Can

- How can you help to empower other to become more engaged?
- What role do you see yourself playing in the health care reform movement?
- What skills, talents, and interests can you lend to growing our study circle project?

*Please complete the **Commitment Form** provided and turn it in to the group’s organizer for mailing.*

VI. Closing Activities:

- Reflections on our group experience. Go around the circle and briefly describe your experiences as a participant. On a scale of 1-10 how has the experience change the way you look at health care in this country?
- Thank yourselves and one another for making time in your lives to involve yourselves in active citizenship.