

PREPARATORY MATERIALS STUDY CIRCLE #6

Reading Materials:

- *An Introduction to the Overton Window of Political Possibilities*
Nathan Russell, Mackinac Center for Public Policy
- *Perspectives in Brief*, Public Agenda, New York, NY
- *Creating Positive Conversations*
The Herndon Alliance
- *The Six Principles of a Healthy Democracy*
Developed by America Speaks, AmericaSpeaks.org
- *Making a Difference*
Access through Action Dialogues, Human Services Coalition of Dade County

Thought Questions:

- Are there inherent contradictions between our democracy, economic interests, and moral values? Or, can they be mutually supportive or enhancing?
- Is our nation's political "window" large enough to contain a health care design that is affordable, accessible and just?
- Every poll of voters indicates a strong desire for reform. How does the current power structure block reform?
- Who are the players? Legislators, lobbyists, think tanks, research institutes, media corporations, etc.
- Who are the change agents in our society? What roles do they play?
- Who defines the issues?
- As "citizen think tanks" how can we become change agents?
- What role can I play?