



A Pastoral Letter on Children’s Healthcare
from our General Minister and President
Dr. Sharon E. Watkins

The moment in time when many social movements take off is when faith communities decide to get involved. The slave trade ends, child labor is banished, the Civil Rights Movement takes root. This time the issue is healthcare—healthcare for children.

I have only recently come to truly understand the devastating circumstances of children living in the United States without healthcare. Are you aware that 9 million children in this country do not have health insurance coverage? And that the majority of these children live in working households?”

How we treat our children says something about the kind of people we are—and about the kind of God we serve. *I have decided that I need to speak out on this issue and I am writing to urge you to enter into prayerful discernment about whether or not it is time for you and your congregation to also take a stand.* Every single child living in this country needs access to good healthcare. . . .

We need to be the arms of Jesus reaching out to gather every one of those 9 million children into our embrace. . . .

Please join me in praying that God will show us the way to take care of these precious little ones. ***Let us educate ourselves and others on the specific issues and problems, write letters to the editors to express our concerns and share out knowledge; let our views be known to our representatives in Washington, DC, and to the President of the United States. . . .***

Perhaps now is the moment in time for Disciples of Christ to lead the way for all God’s faithful people to speak out and take action on behalf of America’s children.

I join with Sharon Watkins and other Disciples, other Christians, and other people of faith and conscience in supporting comprehensive health care for all children. I also join her in calling on Congress to override the President’s veto of a bipartisan bill that would extend health insurance to more of our children.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **Fax** _____

Congregation or Organization _____

EMAIL _____

Congressional District _____

*Please sign immediately and fax copies to **443-782-0273**.*

Write your Senators and representatives online at www.djan.net/alerts/healthcare.html

Watkins calls on Congress to override Presidential veto: www.centerblog.org