

**FOLLOW THE MONEY... FIND OUT THE TRUTH**

## Healing Healthcare Policy

**Let's cure the underlying cause instead of treating the symptoms.**

Are you worried about the cost of healthcare and wondering if you can afford to get sick? If so, this won't make you feel any better: While the people of North Carolina are struggling with healthcare costs, insurance firms and drug companies are making handsome profits — and plowing a lot of those profits into backing candidates friendly to policies that benefit their interests at the expense of yours:

- ▶ **NC's two U.S. Senators and 13 members of the U.S. House** have received \$5.2 million from individuals and PACs related to insurance and healthcare services in the past three election cycles (2003-2008).
- ▶ **Among NC elected officials, Sen. Richard Burr received the most** — \$1.67 million. Next up was the \$630,949 raised by U.S. Rep. Sue Myrick (R-Charlotte) from donors and PACs related to insurance and healthcare.
- ▶ **In 2009, a critical year for policy debate**, this sector spent nearly \$400 million on lobbying members of U.S. Congress. Both Burr and Myrick opposed the health reform proposals put forth in the Senate and House during this time.

### Special interest money is crippling healthy policy debate.

If you support better healthcare policies, it makes good sense to also support campaign finance reform. We must break the control that big-money interests have over elected leaders by offering alternative sources of campaign funds through public campaign financing programs (sometimes called Voter-Owned or Clean Elections). These programs are voluntary, affordable and effective. They promote grassroots campaigning and help candidates be independent of big money influence. They also open the door for healthcare advocates and professionals to run for office. More than 130 members of Congress, including five from NC, have signed on as co-sponsors of HR-1826, the *Fair Elections Now Act*. The bill would provide optional public financing for Congressional candidates who qualify by raising a large number of small contributions from voters. The Senate version is S-752.

### We've got to change the system if we want public policies that serve the public good.

Please urge your U.S. House Representative to support the Federal Fair Elections Now Act by calling him or her today!

Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D-1)	252.237.9816 in Wilson or 202.225.3101*
Rep. Bob Etheridge (D-2)	919.829.9122 in Raleigh or 202.225.4531
Rep. Walter Jones (R-3)	252.931.1003 in Greenville or 202.225.3415*
Rep. David Price (D-4)	919.967.7924 in Chapel Hill or 202.225.1784*
Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-5)	336.778.0211 in Clemmons or 202.225.2071
Rep. Howard Coble (R-6)	336.333.5005 in Greensboro or 202.225.3065
Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-7)	910.815.4959 in Wilmington or 202.225.2731
Rep. Larry Kissell (D-8)	910.920.2070 in Fayetteville or 202.225.3715*
Rep. Sue Myrick (R-9)	704.362.1060 in Charlotte or 202.225.1976
Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-10)	828.327.6100 in Hickory or 202.225.2576
Rep. Heath Shuler (D-11)	828.252.1651 in Asheville or 202.225.6401
Rep. Melvin Watt (D-12)	704.344.9950 in Charlotte or 202.225.1510*
Rep. Brad Miller (D-13)	919.836.1313 in Raleigh or 202.225.3032 *

\* *THANK these Reps. for co-sponsoring HR-1826 (FENA) — they're already on board!*