



August 31, 2007  
Governor Jim Gibbons  
Nevada Capitol Building  
Carson City, Nevada 89710

Dear Governor Gibbons,

On behalf of the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, I am writing regarding the recently approved merger between UnitedHealth Group and Sierra Health Services. Like everyone else who is not financially connected to these corporations, we are frankly baffled by the lack of conditions and concessions required by Nevada Insurance Commissioner Alice Molasky-Arman in allowing the merger.

However, we appreciate that you feel the state needs to take additional steps to ensure Nevadans are not harmed by this merger and are considering action to ensure Nevada's already tenuous health care system does not erode further as a result of the approval.

In this spirit, we would like you to exert your full authority to use this merger to help solve Nevada's health care crisis. As you know, Nevada continues to lead the country in the percentage of uninsured--over 400,000 residents are without coverage. To address this and other key health care issues in the state, the *Nevada Strategic Health Care Plan, Report of the Legislative Committee on Health Care*, recommended comprehensive and specific steps that Nevada should take. Not surprisingly, substantial funding is required to implement these recommendations.

In 2005, when UnitedHealth merged with PacifiCare, California's insurance commissioner required the corporation to provide a quarter-billion dollars to fund preventive care, technology and education programs. The best our insurance commissioner could do in this regard was assert "United and Sierra will continue, and build on, their charitable giving and philanthropic activities."

We know that you know Nevada deserves better. UnitedHealth Group's revenue in 2006 was more than \$71 billion. Vetted and sensible solutions to Nevada's health care crisis demand funding. And UnitedHealth can certainly afford to chip in to help the state where it intends to reap enormous profits as a result of this merger.

We therefore ask you to demand that as a condition of this merger, UnitedHealth must establish a \$500 million fund to implement Nevada's health care plan and to assist employees in paying insurance premiums.

(more)

Please do not let them get away with making a bad situation worse. Instead, use this merger to make substantial improvements in the health of Nevadans.

Thank you for your consideration, and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Bob Fulkerson  
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cc:

Nevada Insurance Commissioner Alice Molasky-Arman  
Nevada Senate Majority Leader William J. Raggio  
Nevada Assembly Speaker Barbara Buckley