



ABOUT US

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FRIDAY ROUNDUP

THIS WEEK AT THE PROGRESSIVE PULSE:

[Health Reform, Medical Debt, and Hospitals – A Middle Class Issue](#): As more medical costs get passed on to people **with** insurance – who now often face thousands of dollars in deductibles and coinsurance – hospitals are ramping up efforts to use credit scores and collection schemes. Health reform is clearly no longer “just” about the uninsured.

[Banking Bailout](#): E.J. Dionne's excellent commentary and how the issues he raises relate to outrageous insurance company executive salaries and nutty high-deductible health reform plans.

[Why We are Winning](#): We've got the plans for change. We're mad. And we're not going to tolerate more political foot-dragging and special interest appeasement any more.

HAC MEETING A SUCCESS: HAC members came together on Monday this week to discuss plans for the organization, current work, and more on our health care plan for everyone in North Carolina. With new support from HAC longtime funder the Public Welfare Foundation, HAC is hiring two new staff members to work on health policy analysis and on coalition building around the state – especially outside of the Triangle! We also discussed HAC Assistant Project Director Nicole Dozier's work (thanks to generous support from the Rex Foundation) on helping parents in Wake County get their kids on Medicaid/Health Choice and get involved in the coalition's work for health care for all kids. See the full report at our [HAC meeting page](#).

WRIGHT EXPULSION: Today was a sad day in the General Assembly as legislators overwhelmingly voted to expel Representative Thomas Wright for a variety of offenses. You can see [all the documents relating to the expulsion here](#). In looking through the documents I was struck by something that was legal at the time had it not been concealed or money diverted. Wright, Chair of the House Health Committee, would ask a major pharmaceutical company like AstraZeneca to donate to a health foundation he had set up and where he was President. In addition, Wright got thousands of dollars in donations from drug companies, insurance companies, and other major players in the health industry over the years. I know I just sound naïve, but is this any way to run a democracy when one of the individuals with the most influence on health legislation gets enormous amounts of money from the industry most affected by the actions in the committee he chairs?

* Adam blogs on state politics and healthcare at [The Progressive Pulse](#).

* Looking for past NC Health Reports? Check out the [NC Health Report Archive](#).

* Looking for great analysis of what's happening in Washington regarding health and other policy areas? The respected [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#) can help. Focused on kids? Try the well-known [Georgetown University Center for Children and Families](#) for excellent information. Finally, FamiliesUSA has a [State Expansions Resource Center](#) that shows reform progress across the country.

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