

For USAction, 2009 was truly a monumental year. Emboldened by the progressive victories in 2008, we led the fight to ensure that the change our nation voted for in November became a reality. **As this landmark year draws to an end, we extend our deepest gratitude for your steadfast support in 2009 and throughout our entire decade of organizing.**

Throughout the year, we worked tirelessly to achieve economic, racial, and social justice for all Americans, landing key victories on tax and budget issues and taking our nation further than ever before on the road to achieving quality, affordable health care for all. And to cap it all off, we were thrilled to celebrate a decade of success with our friends, allies, and supporters during our 10th anniversary celebrations in Chicago, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

You have enabled us to do what we do best: build progressive power and fight to achieve better lives for millions of people across this country—and with our recent anti-war work—around the world. We are so grateful for your support, and we look forward to working alongside you in 2010 and beyond, making sure that our next decade is as successful and memorable as our first.

2009 — YEAR IN REVIEW

Sparking Economic Recovery and Rebuilding America

As the year began, USAction, along with our 28 state affiliates and partners, helped lead the Campaign for Jobs and Economic Recovery. This coalition of national and local organizations worked to support the President's stimulus proposal as a means to jump-start the economy and serve as a down payment on our progressive agenda.

Thanks in great part to the leadership efforts of USAction and our coalition partners, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on February 17, opening the door for more robust economic reforms, including the 2010 budget.

President Obama's budget served as a blueprint for rescuing the country from

its economic crises and reflected many of the progressive priorities—including expanded economic opportunity and security and meaningful health care reform—for which USAction has been advocating since our inception. For this reason, in March, USAction took the lead in organizing Rebuild and Renew America Now (RRAN), a new coalition dedicated to turning back the tide of rising poverty, unemployment, hunger, and homelessness for children and families in America by passing the President's budget. **We celebrated victory on April 2,** as Congress approved and President Obama signed the document that turned around eight years of regressive conservative priorities.



USAction President William McNary addresses thousands of health care activists in Washington DC in June. For more on our health care work, please look inside.

USAction's work on the stimulus and budget resolutions helped reset the nation's priorities to rebuild and renew America for the challenges we face, not only now, but for many years to come.



Rebuild and Renew America Now rally in April.

USAction took the lead in organizing Rebuild and Renew America Now which became the largest progressive federal budget coalition in history, with 116 national organizations and more than 600 state and local groups signed on. Throughout the first months of 2009, RRAN supported and helped generate significant grassroots activity, including:

- 420 events in 45 states
- 92,385 phone calls to Congress
- 71,712 e-mails to Congress
- 10,405 letters to Congress

USAction — Year in Review 2009

Fighting for Quality, Affordable Health Care for All

More than any other issue, health care dominated the public debate in 2009, and USAction was there for every step of the fight, advocating for meaningful reform to help provide quality, affordable health care for all Americans.

USAction has helped create and guide a powerful, passionate grassroots force unwilling to back down from the demand for significant health care reform with a robust public option that works in the best interests of all Americans. And thanks to our tireless efforts, Congress has listened: on October 26th and 29th, two drafts of health care legislation—both including a public option—were introduced in the Senate and House, respectively. On November 7, the House took a historic vote to pass its version of the

legislation – although, unfortunately, with the worst anti-abortion measure in a generation. Throughout the rest of the year, USAction and Health Care for America Now! (HCAN) are continuing our fight for real health care reform—with a robust public option and the reversal of the anti-choice amendment. **It is closer to becoming a reality with every passing day, and on November 21, Senate leadership secured 60 votes to proceed to debate on the 100-year quest for a national health care system for America.**

We look forward to making history by passing quality, affordable health care for all. Then we will help lead a vigorous program to implement the legislation to ensure that the right-wing does not succeed in its stated effort to repeal the bill.

The Magnificent Seven vs. Big Insurance

On Thursday, October 23, USAction and our HCAN partners teamed up to organize a rally against the lobbying arm of the health insurance industry, America's Health Insurance Plans. The rally highlighted the personal stories of the self-proclaimed "Magnificent Seven," individuals and families who bravely shared their personal stories of the horrible tactics insurance companies use to protect their profits with no regard to the pain, suffering and even death that can result from inadequate care or discontinued coverage.

In an amazing coincidence, one of the Magnificent Seven was Courtney Jenkins-Atnip, a community organizer who was trained through a program hosted by USAction and the Midwest Academy in 2004. Over 600 individuals attended the rally, and it received national media coverage in the Associated Press, *USA Today*, National Public Radio, and the Huffington Post.

Making An Impact On The Health Care Debate

Since the beginning of May 2009, USAction's affiliates and partners, with the help of their state HCAN coalitions, have:

generated **389,028 grassroots contacts** to Congress, including phone calls, letters, faxes, e-mails and petitions;

generated **977 grasstops contacts** from community and business leaders or other elected officials to members of Congress, including phone calls, letters, faxes, and e-mails;

organized or supported **363 town hall** meetings and forums;

turned out over **50,000 supporters** to more than **1,000 congressional outreach activities**, including town halls, lobby visits, grassroots call-in days, petition deliveries, press conferences and letter writing campaigns;

organized **228 rallies** and protests in support of comprehensive health insurance reform;

conducted over **348 lobby meetings**, in person and on-the-phone, to key targets in the House and Senate in support of health insurance reform;

submitted **132 op-eds** and **letters-to-the-editor** to newspapers across the country;

organized **53 insurance industry actions** to protest the insurance industry's unjust practices.



"Magnificent Seven" members David and Kelly Arellanes speak out against insurance industry abuses in October.

Lobbying With a Personal Touch

During the budget fight, USAction's North Dakota affiliate, NDPeople.org, knew it was important to make contact with Senator Conrad, Chairman of the Senate Committee on the budget—and the more personal the contact, the better.

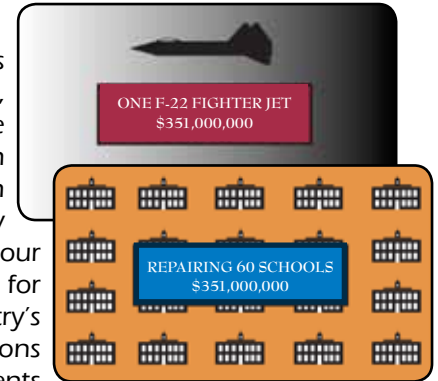
After brainstorming and scouring their network of contacts, they discovered that Betty Mills, one of their c3 board members was Senator Conrad's Sunday School teacher.

Due to her close ties with the Senator, Betty became more involved in the grassroots efforts to lobby Senator Conrad for reform, and by doing so, put a uniquely personal touch on the budget debate.

Reducing Wasteful Military Spending

How would you prefer to spend \$351 million: building one obsolete F-22 fighter jet to defend against the former Soviet Union, or repairing and updating 60 public schools?

These are the kind of questions that USAction's online project, TrueMajority, has raised to the American public since its inception in 2002. Following a merger with USAction in 2007, TrueMajority has continued to encourage our 700,000 online members to lobby for a fundamental shift in our country's priorities, away from obsolete weapons systems and towards investments in programs that benefit our children and families. And on July 21, **we won a decisive victory**, when the Senate voted to strip funding for F-22 fighter jets, freeing up \$65 billion to be better invested in key infrastructure and social programs that Americans so desperately need.



“Thank you to USAction for having your hand on the pulse of real issues that people face everyday here in America.”

Lea Webb, grassroots activist and Binghamton City Council Member



USAction Program Director Alan Charney pumping up the crowd as we took on big insurance in October.



USAction Executive Director Jeff Blum speaks about health care at a Pennsylvania town hall in June.

LOOKING AHEAD

2010 & BEYOND

While USAction has achieved some monumental milestones in the past year, there is much more work to be done to protect and expand the investments in social and economic programs for which we have fought throughout 2009. **As you are one of our closest friends and supporters, we want to give you a brief look into the important work that USAction will be undertaking in the next year.**

We hope that we can count on your friendship and support as USAction continues to fight to build progressive, grassroots power and improve the lives of Americans across the country. In addition to our work in 2010 to implement the health care legislation, we are eager to begin work on an effort to protect and create good jobs, and to carry out a vibrant civic engagement plan.

Putting America Back to Work

The United States is facing the worst unemployment crisis in 70 years, with over 15 million unemployed. While much of the public policy debate in 2009 has primarily centered on health care reform, the focus in 2010 is likely to shift onto an increasing concern for many Americans: jobs.

USAction and our partners are forming a comprehensive plan to curtail unemployment rates and provide greater job security for all Americans—to save and create new jobs for millions of unemployed and underemployed workers, and protect the real income of tens of millions of currently employed people.

Our broad-based jobs campaign will help develop the policy solutions and appropriate messaging around key employment issues, including:

- providing continued fiscal relief to the states;
- making investments in infrastructure, including school maintenance and repair;
- enacting new job tax credits to spur job creation in the private sector;
- direct creation of public service jobs; and
- strengthening the safety net for those harmed by the recession.

USAction will harness our organizing expertise to mobilize unemployed and underemployed workers, youth of color, and older displaced workers as grassroots lobbyists and activists. These people

are now experiencing the worst effects of the crisis and can serve as effective spokespeople for others whose economic futures are threatened.

Connecting With and Mobilizing Voters

USAction's 2010 civic engagement work will focus on endorsing candidates who support our central policy agenda on health care, jobs, and tax and budget issues. We will target six key Senate races in Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Missouri, New Hampshire, and Ohio. USAction and our national and state affiliates have a combined membership of over 1 million, giving us more than a margin of victory in key districts and states across the country.

Due to our long history of mobilizing swing voters in close races, we plan to engage these key voters—and our individual members—through c4 and 527 activities and through our Political Action Committee, USAction Fund for a True Majority. Finally, to ensure maximum impact and build off of our successes in 2008, we will recruit our individual members as phone bank and door-to-door volunteers. Together, we will organize and mobilize constituencies who are key to the election and who are often ignored by other organizations. And we will build lasting power to form a foundation for 2011 and the years to come.

“ Anne Hess and Craig Kaplan:

“USAction is an organization that has strategic vision and tactical confidence. It is an organization that maintains its principles and its vision. USAction, its leadership, its workers, and, you, its supporters, we all know we have to keep pushing the rock up the hill.”
– at USAction's 10th Anniversary Gala

Thank you for your support and belief in the work we can do together! Let's get to work!