

Jericho trumpet

Bringing Down the Walls of Injustice

May, 2003

Grassroots Legislative Advocacy Critical to the Democratic Process

Next to voting, the most important way that citizens participate in government is to communicate their wishes to legislators. While it is tempting to think that government is off in the distance “doing things” to us, our society is better served when individuals take responsibility for shaping the discussion about how to achieve the common good.

This issue of The Trumpet is about advocacy—the daily presence that JERICHO has in the Capitol and equally, and often more important, the active presence of JERICHO members throughout the state.

Going to the root of problems

To be an advocate is to speak or plead on behalf of another. For people of faith, it means to plead on behalf of, and side by side with, those whose voices are not generally heard and those who may not have a vote.

Public policy advocacy looks beyond the day to day sufferings of people to the root causes of those sufferings. For those who see the effects of unfair social and economic policies in their work in food pantries, shelters, clinics, or children’s programs, advocacy becomes a way to change those policies that affect the daily lives of poor people.

Working with a visionary goal

Advocacy challenges the status quo. It comes from a belief that things can be different and a conviction that a just society protects the most vulnerable of its people. Advocates understand that *peo-*

ple make decisions—and if we opt out of the decision-making process we are still responsible for the outcome.

These are especially hard times to keep in mind a vision of what a world would be like where people live in harmony, have what they need, and always seek the common good. However, it is these visions contrasted with daily realities that fire the passion that is needed for sustained advocacy.

***Without a vision
The people perish***
Proverbs 29:8

Using the resources available

JERICHO is committed to assist its members with tools needed for advocacy. Through the newsletters, website, occasional issues briefs, and phone contact we want to get you information you can use. The e-mail alerts, fax alerts, and the Take Action part of our website are designed to make it easier for you to make your voice heard in a timely way.

JERICHO has advocacy resources for your social action group and can help you set up a JERICHO chapter in your congregation or a legislative committee for your social action group.

Your participation in the legislative process is a critical part of JERICHO’s work in the state. Together with our moral vision, it is

(Continued on page 8)

Editorial

By Sister Simone Campbell

I have learned many things about lobbying since I came to JERICHO this past year. While I brought the theoretical knowledge of a law school education, I have learned many of the practical realities that I wish to share with you.

Since the beginning of the new session in January, I have visited with 96 out of 120 legislator's offices—and 65 of these visits have been with the legislators themselves rather than their aides. These short 15 minute visits have been a very important way to introduce me to the legislator, explain a bit about JERICHO, and learn of the legislator's priorities. I have learned the critical importance of face to face contact. The legislators are eager to know constituents and are more inclined to respond to concerns if they have met that person before there is a problem. So I believe that we continue to have a good base in the legislature.

JERICHO trumpet is published quarterly for members of JERICHO: A Voice for Justice and JERICHO: Education for Justice.

JERICHO: Education for Justice is a statewide interfaith organization that educates and involves members of congregations, religious groups and clergy about California public policy as it affects poor people. This education serves as a springboard for advocacy on key issues of economic justice at the state level.

JERICHO: A Voice for Justice maintains a registered lobbyist in Sacramento to actively engage in the development of legislation that promotes economic justice.

JERICHO provides on-line bill tracking, a legislative alert system, newsletter, current issues material and ongoing education in public policy.

JERICHO Statewide Office
926 J Street, Suite 410
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 441-0387 Fax: (916) 441-0388
www.JERICHOforjustice.org
JERICHO@JERICHOforjustice.org

I also learned that legislators are very interested in how many JERICHO members we have in their districts. This has underscored for me the importance of district based organizing and action. It is important to have legislative visits in the districts so that grass roots work can complement the work that is done here in Sacramento.

Through our Prayer Project (where Catholic Sisters pray supportively for assigned legislators and for that legislator's staff and family), I have learned that all legislators are human and appreciate support and concern for their well being. Because of this Project, many of my visits have turned into more personal sharing that can set the basis for a real relationship in the future.

I must say that I was baffled by the hearing process on bills. The standard rule is that there are two speakers in favor of a bill and two for the opposition. The remainder of the organizations line up after the main speakers, and supporting or opposing, say basically "me too." Because time is such a precious commodity and there is so much to do, I had thought that "me too" was possibly a waste of time. But I have learned that it is important for legislators to see us at the microphone if only for a brief moment. It helps them to understand visually who are the proponents and opponents. It allows for eye contact and quick words on other matters. So appearing at hearings has moved up on my priority list.

From my one experience of working to amend the wording of a bill I can tell you it is highly technical and challenging. Fortunately, there are people around with skills to help with this part of the process. The most important thing is to articulate the concern clearly and to say what it is we want to accomplish.

In summary, I have learned (again) that this process is mostly relational. It is important to know and be known. But more important, it is key that

(Continued on page 8)

JERICHO's Website Provides e-Advocacy Resources

JERICHO's new website www.jerichoforjustice.org had busy people in mind when it was created. It is designed to be a tool for information as well as a means for quick communication between members and their state representatives in Sacramento.

The OUR ISSUES section holds our bill folders with categorized and summarized information on the many bills the JERICHO follows. For those who want more information, the website has tools for researching issues in depth.

For example, in the LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES section you will find

- Any legislation currently before the California State Legislature
- Direct access to committee hearing schedules and status files for all current state legislation
- Information about legislative representatives, including committee assignments and committee staff
- Official legislative calendar and rules
- *The State Capitol Today*—a “clipping service” of top political stories from major California newspapers

The RESOURCES section contains links to a number of websites that provide in-depth and ongoing information on the budget, health, housing, immigration and the like.

The TAKE ACTION button makes responding to bills easy. With sample letters provided as well as a list of those to whom response is needed (e.g. committee members who will hear a bill) you can send your response in fewer than five minutes.

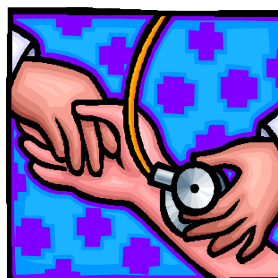
If you have questions or difficulty using any part of the website, please call the JERICHO Office at (916) 441-0387.

www.jerichoforjustice.org

Health Care Reform Workshops Available by Request

Eight workshops on health care reform have been conducted around the state in the past two months. The workshops are now available for groups to request in their area.

The workshop outlines the current problems for the 6.5 million people in



California who are uninsured and highlights other aspects of a system that is coming under more and more scrutiny. It explores the underlying values that should guide a delivery system;

involves participants in reflecting on the current reform options and legislation in light of faith-based values, and presents ways to actively engage in the renewed and growing movement towards health care reform.

If your group that would like to sponsor a workshop in your area, contact JERICHO.

***Ours is not the task
of fixing the entire world
all at once,
but of stretching out
to mend the part
of the world
that is within our reach.
It is not given to us to know
which acts or by whom
will cause the critical mass
to tip toward enduring good.
What is needed
for dramatic change
is an accumulation of acts,
adding, adding to, adding
more, continuing.***

Clarissa Pinkola Estes

HEALTH CARE REFORM BILLS TAKE CENTER STAGE

This session JERICHO's Health bill folder is filled with health care legislation. The following are the major bills that would improve insurance coverage or rework some important aspect health care delivery. For more information on these or other bills use the JERICHO website.

AB 30 (Richman) *Employed uninsured adults.*

Would require the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board to expand the Healthy Families Program to provide coverage to employed childless adults of a qualified employer, as defined, who are uninsured for health care coverage and who meet certain household income requirements, subject to approval of a federal waiver and appropriation of state matching funds.

SB 2 (Burton and Speier) *Health care coverage.*

Would require employers to provide health care coverage for eligible employees and dependents that is equivalent to coverage required to be provided by health care service plans and would include coverage for basic prescription drugs. It is estimated that about 5 million of the uninsured would be covered.

SB 921 (Kuehl) *Single payer health care coverage.*

This bill would establish the California Health Care System to be administered by the newly created *California* Health Care Agency under the control of an elected Health Care Commissioner. It would offer coverage to all California residents through a state operated insurance program.

AB 43 (Daucher and Cohn) *Long-Term Care Integration (LTCI) program: establishment.*

The Long-Term Care Integration Pilot Program requires the State Department of Health Services to administer a pilot program that will integrate the financing and administration of long-term care services in up to 5 pilot project sites around the state. This bill would rename the program and establish the LTCI program as an ongoing program.

AB 232 (Chan) *Statewide health planning and develop-*

ment: hospitals: self-pay policies.

Would require each general acute care hospital, acute psychiatric hospital, and special hospital to develop a self-pay policy specifying how the hospital shall determine the prices to be paid by self-pay patients.

AB 293 (Daucher) *Health care coverage: small business.*

Would create the Small Business Employees Access to Health Care Coverage Act, establishing a voluntary program in which a small business may limit, as specified, the amount its full-time employees are required to contribute toward the cost of their health care coverage.

AB 1163 (Frommer) *Medi-Cal program and Healthy Families Program: bridge health insurance coverage.*

Would require, by October 1, 2004, the board and the department, in consultation with counties and consumer advocates, to establish county bridge health insurance coverage options for eligible children leaving the Healthy Families Program or the Medi-Cal program and switching to county-sponsored health insurance programs.

AB 1527 (Frommer) *Health care coverage.*

Would require an employer with 51 or more employees to provide health care coverage to its employees and their dependents, unless the employer pays to the Employment Development Department an unspecified percentage of its total payroll cost.

SB 24 (Figueroa) *Health care: accelerated enrollment.*

Would require the CHDP program to confirm the eligibility of, and issue a Medi-Cal card to, any child under the age of one year who is deemed to have applied and is deemed eligible for Medi-Cal pursuant to federal law and on whose behalf Medi-Cal coverage is sought through the CHDP program.

SB 142 (Alpert) *Medi-Cal to Healthy Families Accelerated Enrollment Program.*

Would create the Medi-Cal to Healthy Families Accelerated Enrollment Program that would make children meeting specified criteria eligible for health, dental, and vision coverage under the Healthy Families Program.

This form has been part of JERICHO's Insuring California's Uninsured workshops for the purpose of collecting feed-back for legislators regarding people's preferences for the basic elements of any health care reform legislation. Please join the feed-back by returning this form to JERICHO with your preferences.

How would you put together a health care system?

In the column with the number 8, check eight of the listed elements that are most essential to your desired system. In the column with the number 3 pick the three most preferred out of your eight choices.

8 3

___ ___ **Strong market forces:** make maximum use of market mechanisms (including competition) to produce efficiency, cost control, quality, etc.

___ ___ **Encourage voluntary change:** use voluntary incentives favorable to for-profit and not-for-profit service organizations to encourage systemic change

___ ___ **Maximal choice for consumers:** maximize patient choice of providers, treatment

___ ___ **Priority to uninsured:** Special attention is given to those who lack insurance in current situation

___ ___ **Maximal choice for providers:** Maximizes freedom for professionals—specialties, location, income, etc.

___ ___ **Sustainable:** Emphasis on system's ability to remain predictable and consistent for patients and providers

___ ___ **Universal:** basic, quality care available to all

___ ___ **Bias to cutting edge research:** major emphasis on funding for research and swift availability to general public

___ ___ **Balance of key elements:** assure that the system maintains a balance of key components of care continuum & and avoids control by narrower interests

___ ___ **Honors need for limits:** recognizes that health care is only one of many social needs of a community and must live within reasonable limits

___ ___ **Progressively financed:** financed by mechanisms based on ability to contribute

___ ___ **Manage as organic whole, not disjointed parts:** requires integration and consistency on a national level, not piecemeal patching

___ ___ **Infrastructure for fair allocation:** has adequate mechanisms for making necessary hard choices in consistent principled manner

___ ___ **Priority to individual health needs:** system strives to meet all needs of individuals with broadest array of services

___ ___ **Priority to health needs of community:** system strives to meet basic health needs of community as a whole

___ ___ **Priority to basic care/prevention:** in priority setting

___ ___ **Build on employment-based access:** system will keep employment-provided insurance and ensure that people who change jobs do not lose coverage

___ ___ **Minimize administration:** spends as little on profits, marketing, administration, etc. as possible

___ ___ **Expand all existing programs to include everyone:** Knit together a system out of the existing program, keeping their current individual systems of service intact

___ ___ Other: _____

Get to Know Your Legislator

Gwen Watson of Lafayette went to her shopping center upon hearing that her congresswoman was to be there. She thought there would be a crowd. Instead she had her representative all to herself for about twenty minutes—and was able to educate her and her aide regarding an issue with which her congresswoman was not familiar!

“If you know your issue and you have your facts,” Gwen says, “you’ll get their attention.”

The first step to establishing effective legislative relations is getting to know your assembly and senate members (and congressional representatives at the federal level). The more time you take to learn about your elected representatives, the better able you are to communicate with them. You can look up the committee assignments and leadership positions on JERICHO’s website. You can read his or her biographical information and, sometimes, previous community involvement.

Some of the ways that you can get to know your legislators include the following:

- Read your legislator’s newsletters for constituents. You can request to be on their mailing lists.
- Watch for articles in your local newspaper and keep a folder of clippings either on issues of concern and/or your legislators’ activities.
- Attend public events at which your elected officials are to be present. These events are frequently listed in the newspaper and can provide opportunities for conversation and meeting like-minded voters.
- Work in local political campaigns. This “high end” involvement is a good way to support those who share your values and concerns.
- Meet with candidates *before* they are elected to ask questions about your issues.
- Participate in the Interfaith Legislative Lobby Day held each year in the spring in Sacramento.

May to Summer Legislative Calendar

- May 2 Last day for policy committees to hear and report to Fiscal Committees any fiscal bills introduced in their house.
- May 9 Last day for policy committees to hear and report non-fiscal bills introduced in their house.
- May 15 Governor submits revised budget.
- May 23 Last day for policy committees to meet until June 9.
- May 30 Last day for fiscal committees to hear and report to the Floor bills introduced in their house. Last day for fiscal committees to meet prior to June 9.
- June 6 Last day for bills to be passed out of the house of origin. Committee meetings may resume.
- June 15 Budget bill must be passed by midnight.
- July 11 Last day for policy committees to meet and report bills.
- July 18 Summer recess begins at the end of this day if Budget Bill has been enacted.
- Aug 18 Legislature reconvenes.

What’s Your Civic Hygiene Score?

How long does it take you to brush or comb your hair and brush your teeth each day? Basic personal hygiene is so common we hardly think about it.

Let’s say you spend 10 to 30 minutes a day—which is at least an hour a week on just this aspect of personal hygiene. We do it to stay healthy and to look and feel good.

What if we spent the same amount of time on “civic hygiene”—the basic things that keep our lives as citizens working for a healthy society? What if we dedicated ten minutes a day, an hour a week, or four hours a month being an informed voter and a more active participant in the legislative process? It would go a long way toward re-claiming the democratic process in our state and in our country. It would create a healthier society that both looked and felt good.

Thanks to More of JERICHO'S 2002 DONORS

In the January Trumpet we listed the individuals, groups and institutional contributors who furthered our work in 2002. Inadvertently left out were some of those who supported us through their contribution to our annual event as an auction donor, sponsor, or planning committee member. We are deeply grateful for their contribution to JERICHO'S commitment to improving the lives of poor people in California.

Saeed Ali	Roger Ele—Eleakis Photography	Hon. Deborah Ortiz
Hon. Dede Alpert	Hon. Marco Firebaugh	Elsa K Hyder—Pacific Racing Association
Hon. Elaine Alquist	Terry Flanigan	Randy Paragary—Paragary's
Hon. Phillip Angelides	Weyland Fat—Frank Fat's	Christine Essel—Paramount Pictures
Kelli Tharpe—Amtrak	James L. Frayne	Willie Pelote
Reda Bellarbi and Jennifer Spark—Aoli	Bobbie Metzger and Michael Galizio	Kassy Perry
Bodega Espanol	Golden Gate Fields	Merrill Jacobs Pharmaceutical Research &
Deborah Frost and Carol Koblis—Arariety	Anthony and Deborah Gonzales	Manufacturers of America
Jewelers	Juan Gutierrez	Nancy Gagin—Raley's
Rusty Areias	Bev Hansen	Sally Rice
Hon. Dion Aroner	Manny Hernandez	Hon. Keith Richman
Astra Zeneca	Hon. Robert Pacheco—Legislative His	Andrew LaFazio—Rio City Café
Alex P. Baldwin	panic Republican Caucus	Juan Gutierrez, Rose and Kindel
Conni & Ron Barker	Bill Flint—J. Lohr Winery	Matthew Roy
Tom Barrett & Judith Barrett Miller	Jo Ann's Elegant Gifts	Jan Rusk—Sacramento Ballet
Kristen Bertolina	Shamrock Johnson	Mark Wong—Sacramento Kings
Joan Backus Bartulovich	Hon. Bill Jones	Mark Wong—Sacramento Monarchs
Beeson, Tayer & Bodine	Sister Susan Kam, SSS	Hon. Simon Salinas
Sarah Beserra	Hon. Christine Kehoe	Ermina Taranto—San Diego Maritime Mu
Jerome Horton—Legislative Black Caucus	Kathy King	seum
Anne Blue	Kay and Gene Knepprath	Joann Bagon—San Francisco 49ers
Hon. Mike Briggs	Hon. Pete Knight	Julie Sandino
Marilou Lord—The Broiler	Hon. Paul Koretz	Alan Irvine—Scott's Seafood Bar +
Mayor Willie Brown	Barbara Krings	Timothy Shannon
Hon. James Brulte	Cynthia Lahey	Mitsuko Hashimoto—Shinju Jewelry Co.
Kay Buck	John Laird	Mary Walters—Sierra West
Hon. Cruz Bustamante	Hon. Richard Polanco and Hon. Marco	Hon. Joe Simitian
Rebekah Atwell—Byington Winery	Firebaugh—Legislative Latino Caucus	D.J. Smith
Dennis Mangers—California Cable	Pat Leary	Brother Modesto—Leon Soledad Enrich
Television Assn.	Merle Levy	ment Action
Tim Hart—California Dental Assn.	Kathy Hillyard—Lexmark International	Hon. Nell Soto
Duane Daumer, and Catherine Reynolds—	Jonathan Lightman	Jose Sanchez—Southwest Airlines
California Healthcare Association	Hon. Carol Liu	Hon. Jack Scott
Karen Reinecke—California Pistachio	Hon. Harry W. Low	Hon. Jackie Speier
Commission	Linda Muir	Hon. Darrell Steinberg
Hon. Bill Campbell	Peter Siberell—Los Angeles Turf	Nancy Strohl
Father Murphy—Cathedral of The	Theresa Lowdermilk	Scott Syphax
Blessed Sacrament	Hon. Alan Lowenthal	Connie Levis and Paul Ringstom,—Tapa
Hon. Wilma Chan	Hon. Michael Machado	the World
Mary Chapeau—Chapeau Graphics	Don Maddy	Jennifer Zins Thomas
Chevron Corporation	Rich Mason	Walter Hampe—Sutter Home Winery,
Supervisor Illa Collins	Hon. Robert Margett	Trinchero Family Estates
Hon. Kathleen Connell	Nancy McGagia	Shari Twidwell
Paul and Kay Conrad	Shari and Gavin McHugh	Keith K. Umemoto
Hon. Ellen Corbett	Hon. Bruce McPherson	Alan B. Wayne—United Airlines
Hon. Dom Cortese	Burnette and Mimi Miller	John Valencia
Hon. Jim Costa	Adam Chaccour, Bill Curran, and Monica	Hon. John Vargas
Hon. Dave Cox	Green —Moxie, Junior Restaurant	Candace Moore—Walt Disney
Daina Cullen	Diane Klut—My Thai Cuisine	Mary Wesley
Congresswoman Susan Davis	Hon. Joe Nation	Hon. Herb Wesson
Governor and Mrs. Gray Davis	Charles and Nina Nelson	Sally Wheeler-Valine
Charlie Coyne—Delta King	Alexandra L. Barcellona—Newport Beach	Sue Willoughby
Gerry Desmond	Marriott Hotel & Tennis Club	Michael Falasco—Wine Institute
Michael Dillon	Hon. Jack O'Connell	Hon. Martha Escutia—Legislative
Laurie Earp	Dorothy O'Connor	Women's Caucus
De Laine Easton	Kelly Presson—Original Pete's	

JERICHO

926 J Street, Suite 410
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 (916) 441-0387

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME LIMITED-Please Expedite

NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 SACRAMENTO, CA
 PERMIT NO. 1598

(Continued from page 1)

the work of the members in the districts that gives credibility to our work at the Capital.

If you have suggestions on ways that we can be of greater service, please contact me at the JERICHO Office.

Sister Marti McCarthy
 Director of Education and
 Member Services

(Continued from page 2)

there are people in the districts who stay engaged with the legislative process, know their legislators and express their opinions. It is you, the backbone of JERICHO, who are the real power. Do not be afraid to exercise it, even if you think it is not effective. Based on my experience so far, I can say that you do make a difference, even if it does not feel like it.

*Mark your calendar
 SAVE THE DATE!*

**JERICHO'S
 16TH ANNIVERSARY
 AUCTION/EVENT**

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2003

5:30 P.M.—8:30 P.M.

**The California Chamber of Commerce
 1215 K Street, Suite 1400
 Esquire Plaza**