



**Statement by New Hampshire AFL-CIO
on Passage of Health Care Bill in U.S. House of Representatives**
*Representatives Shea-Porter and Hodes Stand With Working Families,
Not Insurance Companies*

November 8, 2009

The New Hampshire AFL-CIO salutes U.S. Representatives Carol Shea-Porter and Paul Hodes for casting two of the deciding votes for the Affordable Health Care for America Act, which passed 220 to 215 yesterday. They helped put us closer than we have been in the last 60 years to achieving real health care reform – so that working families in New Hampshire get the care they need when they need it.

In voting for the Affordable Health Care for America Act, Representatives Shea-Porter and Hodes stood up to the nonsense that insurance companies have forced on us for decades. They said ‘no’ to insurance companies arbitrarily limiting the amount of care you can receive during a lifetime. They said ‘no’ denying care to, and discriminating against, people who are sick and need care the most. They said ‘no’ to the insurance company stranglehold on 94 percent of the markets and told insurance companies they now have to compete.

Representatives Shea-Porter and Hodes said ‘yes’ to real choice, fairness, security and stability in our health care system. They said ‘yes’ to insurance companies spending most of their revenue on actual healthcare for their customers. They said ‘yes’ to helping seniors get prescription drugs and widening access to preventative services that save lives. They voted for a plan that provides health insurance to 96 percent of Americans, pays for itself and reduces the deficit.

Saturday’s vote was a rare vote of conscience that distinguished which members of Congress truly represent the will of the people. We thank Representatives Shea-Porter and Hodes for standing with the working men and women who sent them to Washington. Make no mistake: this vote is huge for working families, both those belonging to unions and those not. We will honor the commitment to the middle class we saw today in Representatives Shea-Porter and Hodes by continuing to stand with them.

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