

Medical Reform Group (January 29, 2007)
Press Release - For Immediate Release

BRIAN DAY'S ACTIVITIES "SHAMEFUL" SAYS MEDICAL REFORM GROUP

"Dr. Brian Day is using his position as President-elect of the Canadian Medical Association to fight desperately needed health reform in the United States," MRG spokesperson Dr. Ahmed Bayoumi said today.

"His behaviour is shameful."

After years of disastrous experimentation with a variety of private-pay options, many people in the U.S. are waking up to the benefits of singlepayer, universally accessible health care.

In particular, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger of California is proposing a move in the direction of universality. While still limited and inadequate, the Schwarzenegger plan would nevertheless benefit a large number of currently uninsured Californians.

The plan threatens those who benefit from bloated and inefficient American health care, including insurance companies and private forprofit health care delivery organizations.

Dr. Brian Day is contributing to a conference designed to fight moves toward publicly funded care. "Dr. Day," an advertisement for the conference says, "will discuss at length the disadvantages of providing and receiving care in a government-run delivery system." The advertisement continues saying "Dr. Day refers to his election as evidence that doctors there are ready to give private health care a bigger role in the Canadian system."

"Following his election, Brian Day started to tone down his anti-Medicare rhetoric," said another MRG spokesperson, Dr. Gordon Guyatt. "This shows he's back to his old tricks."

While Canada's health care system is far from perfect, every authoritative report in the last 40 years has concluded that the best solutions will come within a publicly funded structure, with care delivered by not-for-profit providers.

"What is outrageous about Day's activities," concluded Dr. Bayoumi, "is that he is undercutting proposals for positive and urgently needed reform in the United States. Using his position as CMA president-elect for this purpose is truly shameful."

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