

Divestment Mission Statement (draft)

Every 11 minutes someone in the United States dies because they don't have access adequate health care. Our campaign to divest from for-profit health insurance companies is based on the principle that health care in the United States should provide universal access to affordable comprehensive care. It is evident that the business of for-profit health insurance has been detrimental to the health and financial well being of millions of Americans and the nation as a whole. By profiting when they do not pay for health care and by manipulating the risk pool to exclude those of us they do not consider profitable they have steadily led to an increase in the number of the uninsured. At the same time they are increasing the underinsured by reducing the payments they offer for health care expenses and raising the cost through higher premiums, co-pays and deductibles. They waste tremendous sums through their endless search for ways to deny care. The cost of for-profit health insurance has risen at three times the rate of wages and inflation over the past 20 years, putting the financial health of our nation in peril. Basing American healthcare on for-profit health insurance companies, institutions that seek only to make profit and that do not provide health care makes no sense. As Americans we have free choice regarding how we invest. We urge others to join with us in withdrawing our financial support from these institutions. Like tobacco, for-profit health insurance is detrimental to human health and we refuse to support it as an investment strategy.