



R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President

Commentary

If Not Now

For nearly a decade, each *IAM Journal* has focused on a single issue. Those cover stories provided our members with in-depth coverage — the facts and the reality as we saw them — so that members could make up their own minds.

Our union is far too diverse to expect everyone to reach the same conclusions. But we wanted everyone to actively participate in the national debate on these important issues.

We respected our members' right to disagree with the positions outlined in the *IAM Journal*. We hoped our members and public officials would engage in the kind of informed dialogue — forceful, fact-based and fundamentally fair exchanges — that leads to enlightened policies.

We were not disappointed. Vigorous debates occurred. Public policies improved.

If Not Now lands in our members' mailboxes as the health care reform debate reaches fever pitch. Lost in the angry exchanges is an inescapable fact: Since 1945, America's insurance cartels have operated with immunity from federal oversight and with impunity under captive state-level regulators and rate setters.

Only one woman — Kathleen Sebelius — has fought those cartels as Insurance Commissioner of Kansas, as Governor of the Sunflower State and now as Secretary of Health and Human Services. Her fight — and, yes, our fight — boils down to one simple question:

If not now, when ... exactly ... will we reform America's health care system?

Get involved in this fight. Call, write or email your Senators and Member of Congress. Tell them that health care reform cannot wait another day, another month, another year, another decade or another generation. Tell them you support Secretary Sebelius and President Barack Obama, and that they should, too.

Tom

IAM JOURNAL



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