

## How to Throw a California OneCare Movie Party

Throwing a movie party is easy, fun and informative. Invite your friends and/or family over for a few hours. Pop some popcorn, chill some sodas and spend the evening watching a movie together, viewing the California OneCare video and talking about how you and your guests can get involved in the California OneCare Campaign for SB 810, California's single payer legislation.

Once everyone's settled in with their popcorn and drinks begin the movie. Some suggestions follow but you may know of others (let us know so we can add them to the list). After the movie is over, show our campaign video, **California OneCare - Full Care, For All, For Less**. Then start a discussion about what you've seen and ask your guests if they would like to help get single payer in our state.

If your guests want to get involved they can join an existing Health Care for All Chapter in your area or form a California OneCare team in your zip code. Ask them to sign the single payer petition online and fill out a volunteer form.

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For your California OneCare Movie Party:

### **California OneCare - Full Care, For All, For Less (2009)**

Order online <http://www.californiaonecare.org/action-center/order-the-dvd/>, or download the DVD order form at the same online location.

Choose a movie to show. Here are some suggestions:

#### **Available on Netflix**

##### **SiCKO (2007)**

Michael Moore sets his sights on the plight of the uninsured in this Oscar-nominated documentary that uses Moore's trademark humor and confrontational style to ask the difficult questions and get to the truth behind the health care crisis. In the world's richest country, 45 million people have no health insurance, while HMOs grow in size and wealth. Moore also explores the widespread use of antidepressants and their possible link to violence.

##### **The Hospital (1971)**

In this black comedy the medical industry's greed, incompetence and bloated bureaucracy is highlighted in this film by Paddy Chayefsky. And even though this movie is close to 40 years old, the script is hardly dated. Here is a bit of dialogue, this spoken by George C. Scott, which Congress must remember: "It is all rubbish, isn't it? Transplants, antibodies... We manufacture genes. We can produce birth ectogenetically. We can practically clone people like carrots...and half the kids in this ghetto haven't even been inoculated for polio! We have established the most enormous...medical entity ever conceived...and people are sicker than ever! We cure nothing! We heal nothing! The whole goddamn wretched world...is strangulating in front of our eyes." It's hard to believe that this dialogue is from almost 40 years ago.

##### **Swimmers (2005)**

In this riveting indie tale set in coastal Maryland, the Tyler household's structure begins to crack when 11-year-old Emma (Tara Devon Gallagher) develops an ear problem requiring surgery that the Tylers can ill afford. As long-buried family squabbles come to the surface, Emma turns to an emotionally haunted young woman (Sarah Paulson) for solace and friendship. Cherry Jones (Tony Award winner for "Doubt" and "The Heiress") and Robert Knott shine as Emma's parents.

### **As Good as It Gets (1997)**

When acerbic, reclusive and obsessive-compulsive author Melvin Udall (Jack Nicholson) lets stressed-out single mom and waitress Carol Connelly (Helen Hunt) and gay neighbor Simon Bishop (Greg Kinnear) and his dog into his life, profound changes await them all in this touching dramedy. Nominated for seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Screenplay, the film won Oscars for Nicholson's and Hunt's heartfelt performances.

### **Damaged Care (2002)**

In this true David-and-Goliath story from Showtime, Linda Peeno (Laura Dern) is a doctor who watches helplessly as her colleagues provide inadequate medical treatment in an effort to toe the line with managed care companies. But Peeno can't, and won't, compromise her patients, so she fights back against the behemoths. It won't be easy, though: The louder she blows the whistle, the more complicated her life becomes.

### **Life for Sale (2008)**

Filmmaker Kimberli Zou boldly examines a hidden health care crisis in America: Hospital administrators, motivated by profit, routinely pressure doctors into discharging patients before they are well enough to go home -- with sometimes fatal results. Featuring interviews with patients, doctors and hospital insiders, this exposé also chronicles the plight of health care workers who risk retaliation for placing patient welfare above hospital policy.

### **John Q (2001)**

In director Nick Cassavetes's gripping social drama, blue-collar worker John Q. (Denzel Washington) finds that his meager insurance won't cover his son's emergency heart transplant. Desperate, he holds a hospital's emergency room hostage until doctors agree to perform the surgery. Meanwhile, gung ho police chief Gus Monroe (Ray Liotta) and hostage negotiator Frank Grimes (Robert Duvall) try to diffuse the situation amid a media frenzy.

### **Available for Online Purchase**

#### **P.O.V.: Critical Condition (2008)**

(\$26.95 online at [http://www.pbs.org/pov/criticalcondition/film\\_description.php](http://www.pbs.org/pov/criticalcondition/film_description.php))

Roger Weisberg's Critical Condition is a powerful, eye-opening look at the health care crisis in America. Critical Condition lays out the human consequences of an increasingly expensive and inaccessible system. Weisberg allows ordinary hard-working Americans to tell their harrowing stories of battling critical illnesses without health insurance. Critical Condition dramatizes how health care is rationed based on ability to pay. "It's your money or your life," says one of the film's subjects, who courageously lays bare the uncounted cost in pain and suffering that is borne by millions of uninsured Americans.

#### **Money-Driven Medicine (2009)**

(\$49.95 online at <http://www.moneydrivenmedicine.org/buyrentscreen> for community groups, house parties, and home use)

Produced by Academy Award winner Alex Gibney (Taxi to the Dark Side; Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room) and based on Maggie Mahar's acclaimed book, Money Driven Medicine: The Real Reason Health Care Costs So Much, the film offers a behind-the-scenes look at how our 2.6 trillion dollar a year healthcare system went so terribly wrong and what it will take to fix it. In the film, medical ethicist Larry Churchill doesn't mince words: "The current medical care system is not designed to meet the health needs of the population. It is designed to protect the interests of insurance companies, pharmaceutical firms, and to a certain extent organized medicine. It is designed to turn a profit. It is designed to meet the needs of the people in power."