



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL  
INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION  
Leading the advancement of professional interpreters

## Washington Activities related to Medical Interpreting Certification and Reimbursement Advocacy

### June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

On June 24<sup>th</sup> and June 25<sup>th</sup>, 10,000 people came to Congress to demand quality, affordable, and equitable health care in 2009. All rallied for health care right outside of the Capitol building - with actress Edie Falco and Dr. Howard Dean firing up the crowd. Senators Brown and Schumer and Representative Schwartz and many more told us how hard they were working in Congress for real health reform. And we heard from people all around the country who need health reform. It was impressive, especially when we heard speakers address the issue of language access and the importance of the role of medical interpreters in providing equitable care to underserved populations.

Linda Joyce and I represented the IMIA and the National Board efforts for national certification and reimbursement for medical interpreters. We participated in the Patient Congress, run by the Patient Advocacy Foundation, the Night the Light Rally on June 24<sup>th</sup>, and the rally by Health Care for All. After the rally, those 10,000 people took to the halls of Congress. At **dozens** of town halls, Members of Congress heard from their constituents about health reform. And at **hundreds** of small meetings throughout the Capitol building, people from around the country met with their representatives one-on-one to make sure we get **real** reform this year.

Since congressional offices like to hear only from their state constituents, Linda visited her senator and representative offices from West Virginia, and I visited 15 offices of Massachusetts representatives and senators just to discuss medical interpreter recognition and reimbursement. It was a memorable experience!

### July 9<sup>th</sup>

Marty Conroy, Language Line Service, Suzie Dumont, from Cardinal Point, and I went back to Washington DC for specific committee meetings with

- Andrew Dawson, Ways and Means Health Subcommittee Clerk/Professional staff member
- Stacy Sachs, Senate HELP Committee AND Meghan Thompson, Senator Kerry's Office
- Rochelle S. Dornatt, Chief of Staff, Office of Congressman Sam Farr
- Heather Gasper, Health Legislative Assistant
- Kelly Whitener, Senate Committee on Finance
- Patricia Villarreal, Exec Director of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual MAY 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 in Washington DC!

We are planning our own rally and Congress visit on the Fourth Annual National Certification of Medical Interpreters Open Forum on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1, 2010 and we invite you to come with us so that every single state congressional office receives a visit from medical interpreter advocates.

We need your help and want to know: *Are you coming?*

Stay tuned...