Rahna Epting: Good evening everybody. I’m Rahna Epting, Managing Director of MoveOn’s election program. Thank you so much for joining us tonight for this Resist and Win national organizing call. In 23 days, it will be November 6th, Election Day, and we’ve got a really exciting lineup tonight as we continue our countdown to the midterm election. US Senator Cory Booker, healthcare activist Laura Packard, and several MoveOn leaders are joining us this evening.

Rahna Epting: We’ll get to the program in just a few minutes, but first a couple quick announcements. Over the last year and a half, we’ve been hosting these calls. Many organizations have taken part. Tonight, I want to give a quick thanks to Daily Coast, The Center for Popular Democracy, People for the American Way, Healthcare Voters, 5 Calls, Community Catalyst Action Fund, and American Muslim Health Professionals, for supporting this call as well as the next two calls which make up our countdown to the midterm election series.

Rahna Epting: We’ll get started in just a couple of minutes. Again, if you’re just joining, welcome, welcome, welcome to tonight’s Resist and Win national organizing call. I’m Rahna Epting with MoveOn, and we are so pleased to have you with us on the phone, streaming online, and watching the Facebook Live. 24 days, excuse me, 23 days until Election Day, and we are rocking and rolling folks. People are out on their communities knocking doors, folks are making calls, taking action to make an impact this election season. Tonight we’ll talk about several ways you can get involved.

Rahna Epting: Before we get started, just a reminder that if you’re on the phone and want to ask a question, press star three to connect with one of our screeners. We’ll have time for questions later in the call. Again, if you’re on the phone and you want to ask a question, just press star three to connect with one of our screeners, and we’ll have time to answer those questions towards the end of the call.

Rahna Epting: Over the last year and a half, we’ve held more than 20 Resist and Win national organizing calls. These calls are one way to find out what’s happening with some of the most pressing issues facing our country, and to plug into the work to make change. Where you get to hear from movement leaders, champions in Congress, grassroots activists, and more. Tonight we’ll hear from speakers who will dig into the current healthcare crisis facing our country. You’ll hear so many ways to get involved no matter where in the country you live.

Rahna Epting: Here is why we’re focused on healthcare in this moment. There is no way to overstate the crisis we’re in. Poll after poll shows that healthcare is the number one issue on everybody’s mind this election season and it has been for awhile. That is no surprise given our current system isn’t working for most families. We pay more for less coverage than most other industrialized countries in the world, and because costs are so high and wages aren’t rising to match, healthcare costs can drive families into bankruptcy and financial instability.
Rahna Epting: Right now, the Affordable Care Act is under attack. 12 Attorney General's are suing, claiming the Affordable Care Act is illegal. If they're successful, this would get rid of essential health benefits, including protections for folks with pre-existing conditions. This case was heard in Texas, and almost certainly will be appealed to the Supreme Court, where we know Kavanaugh is likely to come down against healthcare benefits.

Rahna Epting: House Republicans have voted 60 times to repeal or significantly hinder the Affordable Care Act, and Senate Republicans spent the entire first year of Trump's presidency trying to repeal it, and even snuck a repeal of the individual mandate in their tax scam. They are not the party of expanding coverage. But here's the good news. 70% of people, including 52% of Republicans, favor Medicare for all. Trump and the Republicans are so scared that voters will wake up to their attempts to slash healthcare coverage for all of us that Trump wrote a completely misleading op-ed in USA Today, and Republican incumbents are scrubbing their Affordable Care Act repeal votes from their campaign websites. But they can't hide their plans, and we won't let them trick voters.

Rahna Epting: A hundred plus US House candidates and US Senate candidates, and hundreds of state and local candidates that we've endorsed, all of them want to expand and lower costs. We're organizing to help them win, and if we organize, we will win. So on tonight's call, we are going to hear from the following folks. US Senator Cory Booker from New Jersey. He has been a progressive champion in the Senate and he's fought tooth and nail to stop Trump Care. Resist and Win staffer Liia Uustal, who will give some insights and updates into the massive election program that will end Republican control of Congress. Then we'll hear from Resist and Win leader Steven Martin, a MoveOn member from Los Angeles, California. He's been organizing in his community for California House district 48 for Harley Rouda, and he said this weekend there were hundreds of volunteers who came out. After Steven, nationally known healthcare activist Laura Packard will share her story of why she's in this fight and how you can get involved. Last but not least, my friend, MoveOn's mobile director Mark Crain, will tell us how we can take action from our smart phones to make an impact in the most important races in the country no matter where we live.

Rahna Epting: Again, welcome to the call. If you're on the phone, press star three at any time and you'll be connected with one of our screeners to ask a question. We'll have time at the end of the call for a few questions from participants. So let's get started. We're gonna start with Senator Cory Booker. We are so happy to have you on with us tonight. Senator Booker represents-

Cory Booker: I'm so ha-

Rahna Epting: Oh, you go ahead.

Cory Booker: No. I'm so happy to be on. You don't need to read anything more. I'm just grateful to be here, but even more grateful to have so many activists, so many
patriots, on this call who really believe that we have a moral moment in our country and have to be involved and engaged in fighting in this midterm election, which is only 20 plus days left.

Rahna Epting: Thank you. I know that you've been around the country lately, traveling to Ohio, Maryland, and other places throughout this country helping support wonderful candidates to get elected. Can you share with us what you're seeing out there in terms of the energy out there in the country, and from your perspective, what's at stake this election cycle?

Cory Booker: Well, the great thing is that every place I've gone there have been crowds that have exceeded the expectation of even the organizers. Folks are coming out. They're determined, not just to hope that the election returns are what they should be, or pray, they really want to work and volunteer and knock on doors. That's really encouraging. We're seeing the grassroots donations get stronger, which is really good, because we see the Koch brothers and others are pledging records amounts of money, and on top of that dark money, coming into elections all over this country. And so I'm really proud to see the online contributions really adding up for a lot of our candidates around the country who are trying to fight back against this onslaught of cash. So this is exciting, and as you said, what's at stake, so many people understand that this without a doubt the most important election of our lifetime. There's no question in mind of that. What's at stake with some of the issues we've been talking about, not only the future of healthcare, but also what we see is really alarming trends in our country, like income disparity, people working harder and harder but making less and less money. The price of everything from prescription drugs to childcare, college education, is going up.

Cory Booker: We have policies right now that are outrageous that the Republicans are doubling down on, like huge tax breaks that are going to corporations, which are at an 85 year high of profits already while the rest of us, the working class folks in America, are at 65 year lows in wages. So this is one of those elections that's gonna have a profound impact on our country, not only on the federal level, determining everything from wages in our country, foreign policy issues, criminal justice, but as I travel around the country, I recognize that this is gonna affect deeply things on the local level, issues whether, many states still haven't expanded Medicaid, and there's hundreds and hundreds ... In fact, in the total, millions of Americans that are without healthcare because governors are making decisions contrary to their people. It's gonna help deal with redistricting. State legislatures all around this country have been doing things to undermine the fairness of our election process, whether that's through gerrymandering or the most outrageous of outrageous, doing things to suppress the vote, to make it harder for people to vote. So from the local level all the way up to the federal level, these elections, I have no question in my mind are the most important midterm elections of our lifetime.
Rahna Epting: We've mentioned healthcare, and I mentioned earlier it's the number one concern, poll after poll has shown, from voters. We think about the need to improve the healthcare crisis in this country, and then you compare that to what is achievable here in the midterm election, because it's not a Presidential election, but best case scenario, the organizing that all of us do will help us win back the House and potentially the Senate. Can you talk to us a bit about what would that mean if we're able to win back Congress even though we still would have Trump in office, but what would that mean for healthcare in this country? What is possible that we could do if we're able to achieve that this November?

Cory Booker: Well first of all I'm so grateful, your comments before. Let me just make this clear. Healthcare in America is a right. It is a right. When we founded our nation and talked about the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, everyone on this call knows that you can not have those things without access to quality affordable healthcare. The right to life or liberty. People today are so shackled to illnesses, injuries, that they cannot free themselves from because they can't access doctors. There's a fear that's undermining people's wellbeing. There are folks right now while we're on this call today that are setting aside prescription drugs or cutting pills in half, life saving drugs, because they can't afford them.

Cory Booker: These issues are the forefront of Americans, and most Americans believe that healthcare is a right in this country and that we should have policy changes like Medicare for all. So right now, a Democratic majority, which we should be shooting for in the House and the Senate, we have pathways to both. This would make a massive difference in this fight. First, a Democratic control of Congress would immediately stop in their tracks Republican efforts to appeal the Affordable Care Act which they're still determined to do. If they get a mandate in this election by holding onto the House, holding onto the Senate, they're gonna go back to that.

Cory Booker: Also, folks have to understand, we need to expose and help stop with a Democratic Congress the Trump administration's efforts to sabotage the Affordable Care Act. They've been doing things to make the Affordable Care Act slowly die a death by 1000 cuts, by doing things to undermine it. That's why we've seen premiums going up for people all across America. I talk to the insurance companies in New Jersey who are saying, "Look, the Trump administration cut special funding we had, cut efforts that we had to help many different folks, and stopped advertising, stopped the enforcement of the individual mandate." There's so many things that are going on that they're hurting.

Cory Booker: We know that Democratic control of Congress could help stop the administration’s efforts to repeal certain healthcare protections such as those with people with pre-existing condition, lifetime caps, there's a lot of elements of the Affordable Care Act that they're gunning for that we can stop them. As you mentioned already, in a very much watched case that’s coming up from Texas. It could go to the Supreme Court. But finally, Democratic control of
Congress could begin to lay the groundwork for an expansion of healthcare rights down the road, expanding Medicaid for instance, and developing legislation that would finally achieve the goal of Medicare for all in the years to come.

Cory Booker: I know we're heading that way because as Martin Luther King said, "The arc is long, but it bends towards justice." But that doesn't mean that things happen independently. We have to be the benders of the arc. I know this election is one way that we can start to bend the arc of this country towards universal healthcare, towards Medicare for all, towards healthcare being a right in this country. So just to stay in short, Democratic control of Congress would make a world of difference for anyone that's struggling to get and keep affordable health coverage in this country. It's really one of the main things that seems to be motivating people out there.

Rahna Epting: On that note, can you, and Monique Lukins from LA asked a question that I'm just gonna pop up here that's related to that. She really wanted to know more about the plans Democrats are laying, or the groundwork that Democrats are laying towards preventative healthcare in our lifetime. And you said that there is groundwork being laid. Can you talk a bit more about what groundwork is being laid, or strategized around right now that we hope to see more of once we take control of Congress?

Cory Booker: Well remember, the Affordable Care Act did a lot for preventative care, just by giving people access. For example, in New Jersey, the charity care costs in our hospitals went down 50% because people were not waiting until issues became urgent issues to go to the hospital emergency room. They now have access to preventative care. For healthcare, I talked to somebody in a diner in New Jersey who was telling me that before the Affordable Care Act he couldn't afford his medication for his mental health care. It undermined his well being. It made him lose his job and not able to work, so the Affordable Care Act has done a lot for preventative care, access to contraceptive care. There's so many things about it that are really, really good and critical. We need to be making that more robust and not less robust.

Cory Booker: One of the big issues that I fight for in the Senate is the horrible data and statistics for maternal deaths in our country and infant mortality rates, which are incredibly high, especially for low income populations, especially for minority women. These are things that could be helped if we had a more robust access to prenatal care, more robust access to Medicaid in our hospitals, and the Medicaid additions that allow people to stay in hospitals longer to have more treatment after they have C-sections and other procedures. So there's a lot we have to do. We know the opioid epidemic, for instance, is something that we could be saving a lot of taxpayer monies by getting more robust access to treatment and other preventative measures to deal with opioid addiction in this country, but instead, we'd rather pay so much more money on the back end of that crisis than make critical investments on the front end.
Cory Booker: So the caller from California is asking the right questions. Why aren’t we being a more enlightened country and make investments early before things get far more expensive later on in the process? That’s something that me and a lot of other Democrats continually yell about, because Republicans try to restrict access from everything from attacking Planned Parenthood, which is one of the better taxpayer dollars you can spend because giving people access to cancer screenings, giving people access to contraceptive care actually saves future taxpayer dollars. We’re calling for overall lowering of the costs, expanding the access, creating things like Medicare for all, all of which makes economic sense. If you’re a fiscal conservative, you believe in that. As well as it’s just a humanitarian thing to do, is to help people to stay healthy and to have access to healthcare, not fall deeply into disease or conditions that could have been prevented or mitigated in the first place.

Rahna Epting: Great. And related to the health of Americans in this country is also an issue that MoveOn members bring up, which is climate change. Communities across the country are grappling with impacts of climate change, which we know is being accelerated by carbon pollution. Storms are more dangerous and frequent, wildfires are more destructive, our air quality, everything, it’s impacting our communities. You lived and provided significant leadership in your state through the devastation of super storm Sandy, so I want to ask you, what should Congress be doing now to address climate change and support impacted communities like the hundreds of thousands of people in the Southeast right now who are suffering those immediate impacts?

Cory Booker: Well everybody on this call knows we live in a strange country. We have the only major political party on the planet Earth, the only major political party on the planet Earth, that denies the science of climate change, and that’s the American Republican Party. What they are doing by putting their head in the sand is potentially costing the lives, and potentially, as we know from the recent sobering report released just a few days ago by the UN’s intergovernmental panel on climate change, by ignoring things like this, we’ll ignore it at our planetary panel. They found that the effects of climate change were not only more severe and happening more quickly than anticipated, but that we may have as little as 12 years to act on climate change to limit warming to the 2.7 degree Fahrenheit benchmark that was agreed on as part of the Paris Climate Accord.

Cory Booker: Here you have an administration that pulled out of that Paris Climate Accord, that is no longer trying to lead the planet Earth, but is actually going against the grain and sitting on the sidelines as the planet Earth is trying to do, as countries all across the planet Earth are trying to do something about that. This is not only to our detriment of our health and our wellbeing, but it’s also to a detriment of the opportunities that are created when we lean into climate change.

Cory Booker: I was a mayor of a city and I realized that, "Hey, if I work to environmentally retrofit the buildings in the city, not only do I create jobs in doing that for folks
in my community, but I also lower the carbon footprint of those buildings, helping the environment, and I actually save energy costs." This false narrative that Republicans ... Excuse me. This false narrative that Republicans have created that somehow this is a choice between our economic well being and our climate is just a lie. It’s a tired trope. The reality is, is their win-win-wins, to the planet, to our health and well being, to economic empowerment, and the technologies that are gonna drive jobs for generations to come.

Cory Booker: I’m so angry that we have our competitor nations like China beating us when it comes to investing in new industries. I was on the plane out here to California where I am now talking to an Australian who was bragging to me about how much further they are in investing in solar and affordable solar. So Congress needs to act. We can not sit on the sidelines or do nothing while the planet is in peril. We have to act on this problem now, and we have a party that's in power that is just not doing the job. If we don’t act, it's going to be too late. We are gambling with the future of our planet, with the welfare of generations to come, and again, we know that when climate events occur, it’s often the most disadvantaged. It's often low income folks. It's often vulnerable populations that suffer the most.

Cory Booker: I know this from just air quality, where I live in Newark, inner city kids have much higher asthma rates than folks in the surrounding suburbs. Having challenges compounded by the environmental toxins and environmental injustice that too many of our urban children live in. People think Flint, Michigan is an anomaly, but there's over 1000 jurisdictions where children have more than twice the blood lead levels of the kids in Flint. We have so much work to do when it comes to facing environmental injustice, facing climate change, and seizing the opportunities and the blessings that come, not just for the planet, but for the people of America when we make those investments and we make those decisions. This is one of the reasons why, it's not talked about enough, and all of us should be fighting to get control, to let Democrats again have control of the United States Congress.

Rahna Epting: Senator Booker, we wanted to thank you so much for your leadership in so many ways, in helping to build power in Congress, but also in using your voice everywhere that you go to talk about these really important issues and the pathway that we need to go down in order to win and to create a world where we all can thrive. We just really appreciate you joining us tonight. Thank you so much.

Cory Booker: Thank you. I just want to make one more spiel to all the activists on the phone. If you have a dollar in your pocket, contribute it. We, for example, I'm one of six Senators that has pledged not to take corporate money. You have a lot of candidates that are coming up that are joining the Citizens United Pledge, as am I, but they're leaving themselves in a vulnerable position as these corporations and dark money pour in. Those individual dollar contributions are achieving incredible results. We see this with Beto O'Rourke in Texas putting them in play.
and possibly being able to upset Senator Ted Cruz, so not only is our activism and our volunteerism, but if you have a dollar to give, two dollars to give, please think about making an individual to a candidate, to a House member, to a guy, a person, a woman running for governor, to somebody that you believe in. Don't just work for them, but help them battle back against the obscene pornographic amounts of money that are coming into our politics.

Rahna Epting: Amen. Thank you so much Senator. You have a great evening.

Cory Booker: Thank you. Thank you everybody.

Rahna Epting: Thank you. We're gonna move next to my colleague, MoveOn Resist and Win team leader Liia Uustal. She's going to share some insights and updates into our massive election program to end Republican control of Congress. Thank you so much Liia. Take it away.

Liia Uustal: Thanks Rahna. Thank you Senator Booker as well. I know that some of you have been on these calls before, and you may already know some of this. But for the new folks that haven't been here before, I'm gonna take a step now and give you a big picture view of what we're doing with the Resist and Win program and how you can get involved.

Liia Uustal: As noted by Rahna and Senator Booker, the upcoming midterm elections are crucial. We need to transform our government and we need to end GOP control of the House. In order to do that, MoveOn and our members have endorsed and are working to elect progressive candidates all up and down the ballot all across the country. But, of course, we can only win if we are organizing. We need as many people as possible taking action if we want to see this real change happen, so that's why MoveOn members and our allies are coming together to talk with voters, to listen, and to have the conversations that will mean the difference between winning or losing a close election.

Liia Uustal: If we can win 24 seats in November, we can end GOP control of the House and start to combat the toxic agenda of the Trump administration and the GOP Congress that's enabling it. So that's what the Resist and Win program is all about, engaging and mobilizing this million strong member base to organize weekly volunteer wave events. Now what is a wave event you may ask. A wave event is a voter contact day of action at the local campaign office of a MoveOn member endorsed candidate. By bringing dozens of MoveOn members together, by wearing buttons, t-shirts, and highlighting those candidates' key progressive values and issues, these volunteer waves are helping our endorsed candidates win and are demonstrating the lasting independent progressive power of MoveOn members.

Liia Uustal: To date, we've already had close to 200 wave events, which means we're well on our way to building a progressive network that is determined to elect leaders that stand for all of us. The candidates’ campaigns really are recognizing the
work that we're doing. They're tweeting out photos of MoveOn members filling their offices. They're thanking us for our work. We are helping them win, and we're flexing our independent progressive muscle in the process.

Liia Uustal: So that being said, let's do a quick poll of everyone on the line. How many of you have participated so far in some kind of voter contact event? If you've done some kind of work, voter contact work, that's calls, texting, door knocking, anything like that, press one. If you've attended a wave event, press two. If you've hosted a wave event, press three. We'll take a moment for these votes to come in. If you've done some kind of voter contact event, that's calls, texting, door knocking, press one. Press two if you've attended a wave, and press three if you've hosted a wave. I see a lot of votes coming in. A lot of folks are taking action. This is really, really amazing to see. This is great.

Liia Uustal: Speaking of folks taking action, I'm actually gonna take a moment now and introduce Steven Martin. Steven is a Resist and Win leader in Los Angeles, California, like we spoke earlier. He's been registering voters. He's been canvassing in Newport Beach for Harley Rouda, and is going to share a little bit of why he got involved in this fight, and some tips from his experience as a wave host. So, welcome Steven, and take it away.

Steven Martin: Hi, thank you. Hi ladies, gentlemen, non-binary friends. How are you all today? My name is Steven. I'm 29 years old. I identify with he/him/his pronouns. I'm also queer. I live in Los Angeles, and I organize in Newport Beach. In the spring of 2016, I was being proactive with my health when I decided to get screened for a routine STI check. Little did I know that the results would change my life.

Steven Martin: Four days later, I took a phone call from a nurse from the clinic. She explained to me with haste that my results were very abnormal. They had found an advanced cancer. I was hospitalized immediately with a very rare form of Chronic Myeloid Leukemia, which usually doesn't show up in your 20s, but in your late 70s. It is not curable, and I have to take a medication for the rest of my life.

Steven Martin: My medication costs $145,000 a year. This is so expensive I actually haven't even had it in my system for five months. My life was upended when Trump became president. During the protest uprising, I carried a sign that said, "I was 26 when I was diagnosed with cancer. The ACA saved my life." It caught the eye of Senator Kamala Harris, and we promised each other that we would both go on fighting for healthcare.

Steven Martin: When it came time, I joined the resistance squad at the Los Angeles LGBT Center, where I would go on to help organize phone banks and several hundreds of people, and lead actions that would eventually turn out in our favor, mainly the healthcare repeal. In the winter when the Republicans thought that there was no one looking, when the tax bill was passed, I would go to Washington D.C. for the vote with other accidental activists to disrupt the halls of Congress.
Steven Martin: I will never forget being at the center of power, the pain of being forced from the office of Mimi Walters, the closest Republican to my district. Their office would not give me the time of day even though I have cancer, and even though I had traveled 2300 miles and slept on the church floor just to be there. With my resistance family, the same women, men, and non-binary people who disrupted the Kavanaugh hearing, we staged an occupation of the hallway. I led a mic check and my friends screamed after me my story of cancer and my fear that this tax bill would put a burden between me and my insurance.

Steven Martin: I was taken away in handcuffs that day. Cancer has taken so much from me, my health, my body, my mind, my money, my relationships, my late 20s, and my ability to provide for myself. It took the life that I'm still living to this very day. I'm struggling to get by, but the one thing I have had from the start of all of this is hope. There is no other choice but to have hope and confidence in ourselves that the resistance and what we seek to accomplish will continue.

Steven Martin: Institutions like MoveOn and programs like Resist and Win are the programs that fuel my faith. I can imagine that some of you on this call have asked yourselves so many times, "What can I do?" I'm here to give you the answer. The answer is not just one thing or one action, but many. Actions like Resist and Win waves are built on the foundation of human connection and community. Science has proven over and over again that the most effective way to replace power is for citizens to organize and find a common bond in opposition to power.

Steven Martin: The Resist and Win waves crash into them with everything that you have. All your angry moments, every egregious misdeed that has set you off, the funding of endless wars, climate change, healthcare, job deficits, the stolen Merrick Garland seat, the tax bill, all this aching and all the crying, and all of the tears that we have spilled. Take a deep breath with them and crash into these waves. This is it guys. This is what we have all been waiting for. We are down to the last few days before the midterm elections. This moment to peacefully transfer power by voting, and then to place a check on the dumpster fire we have in The White House.

Steven Martin: When I find a wave that I can attend, I do my best to greet everyone with smiles and firm handshakes, even when I am not hosting I still find a way to tell everyone what I am fighting for, myself. It's like putting on armor and going to battle. Two weeks ago at an action in Newport, my partner was a Korean war veteran whose wife at home had a similar health story to mine. We spent the day walking through what was supposed to be conservative Newport Beach, only to find that every door that answered was a yes vote for a blue down ballot ticket.

Steven Martin: I felt recharged and assured by these people. It's our job as the passionate who seek change, to lead by knocking these doors. Power can look resolute right now, but we can tear it down wave after wave. Thank you. Let's go ahead and
take another poll. Press one if you feel like you are ready to host a wave event in your congressional district. And press two if you feel like you are ready to attend a wave event in a congressional district. Again, that is press one if you ready to host a wave event and two, can you join a wave event in your congressional district?

Rahna Epting: Steven, thank you so, so much. I mean thank you for sharing your story and what motivates you and fuels you to do this work, but also thank you for doing all that you're doing for this country on your volunteer time. We know people have plenty things going on, and I'm just very inspired by the words that you shared tonight. Again-

Steven Martin: Thank you so much.

Rahna Epting: Yeah, yeah. Thank you. To promote Steven's poll one more time, press one if you're willing to host a wave event and press two if you're willing to attend a wave event. As Steven said, he's host several wave events. They're fun. It's really fun to do it. We need more hosts.

Steven Martin: They are so, so, so much fun. I just came from one a few minutes ago for Harley Rouda.

Rahna Epting: That's awesome. We have 92% of those voted. We have 2,300 and counting people that are saying they will attend a wave event, and we have 230 plus and counting, now 250, saying they'll host a wave event. Y'all, if 250 of you host a wave event next weekend or as we head into Election Day, we're gonna kick some butt this election season, so thank you. Then Liia's poll that we took earlier, she asked how many folks on this call have already taken some type of action to impact the election. Over 85% of you who voted said that you have, so that's fantastic.

Rahna Epting: Now we're gonna hear from Laura Packard. Laura is a nationally known healthcare activist and small business owner. She's based in Las Vegas. She's the National Co-Chair of Health Care Voter, and is currently traveling across the country on a 24 state bus tour to talk to voters about this fight. She's been blocked by Trump on Twitter. She's been thrown out of Senator Heller's event while asking him a question, and she's organized all across the country. She's fierce. She's a tireless advocate for all of us and we couldn't be luckier to have her with us tonight. So Laura, thank you so much for joining us. Take it away.

Laura Packard: Hi. My name is Laura Packard, and I'm a MoveOn member and activist from Las Vegas, Nevada. This is what happened to me. Last April, I walked into a doctor's office with a nagging cough. I walked out with a stage 4 cancer diagnosis. Thankfully, I had good insurance through the Affordable Care Act. Obama Care saved my life. I am self-employed, and I used to have junk insurance. If I still had that junk insurance, today I would either be bankrupt or dead. But instead, I was able to go through six months of chemotherapy and a month of radiation.
Laura Packard: There were several times last year when I almost died, but I didn’t. Today I’m in remission, but it cost a million dollars to keep me alive last year. That’s money that I just don’t have, and most of us don’t have either. We can’t go back to the days when people couldn’t get insurance because of a pre-existing condition. Over 130 million Americans are like me, having at least one pre-existing health condition. Many of us are uninsurable without the ACA, and many of us will suffer and die without our insurance.

Laura Packard: Accidents and illnesses can happen to any of us at any time. We’re all at risk. So why are Republicans so hell bent on taking away our insurance? Because they want to give even more tax cuts to their billionaire friends and corporate buddies. How do we stop them? We keep telling our stories. We volunteer and we vote. Last year while undergoing all that treatment, I had to fight my own US Senator and my own president just to keep my insurance.

Laura Packard: President Trump blocked me on Twitter. You might think that this would be a good thing, but being cut off from his public pronouncements and especially not being able to talk back and share my story and what’s at stake, violated my first amendment rights. Thanks to a judge, he was forced to unblock us. As for my Senator, first Senator Heller ignored me, then he gave a weaselly statement to the local TV news about how he felt sorry for me, but he did not say that he would stand up for us and vote against Trump Care.

Laura Packard: Then, as we all know, President Trump leaned on him and Senator Heller folded like a cheap suit. Spineless Senator Heller voted again and again to take away my healthcare, so I went to his public Koch brothers funded event last December to ask him why. I was thrown out of that event for daring to ask my question, and then he even lied to my friend Emily afterwards about it.

Laura Packard: So last week I appeared in a TV ad for Jacky Rosen. Senator Heller then personally attacked me. I'm not the only one either. My friend Jeff Jeans was attacked by Martha McSally's campaign in Arizona for telling his story. I've heard from others with similar experiences. They’re afraid of the power of our stories because they know that Americans don’t support their anti-healthcare agenda. If enough people hear us, we will vote them all out.

Laura Packard: Now I’m a co-chair of the national organization Health Care Voter, and we're organizing one million healthcare voters around the country at healthcavoter.org. I'm also working to organize adults with serious medical conditions with my brand new nonprofit called Voices of Health Care, so that we can use the power of our stories to stop the attacks on our care. I'm traveling across the country as well, on the Protect Our Care healthcare bus over the next few weeks, doing healthcare events in 24 states. See our whole schedule at protectourcarebustour.com.

Laura Packard: Right now I'm in Reno, and I'll be doing a bus event in the morning to hold Senator Heller and Representative Amodei accountable for the GOP sabotage of
our healthcare. There are several things you can do too from wherever you’re at to help create a blue wave across the country. First, I hope to see you in person at one of the Protect Our Care healthcare bus events. Follow me at lpackard on Twitter and Facebook for more details. My Twitter feed may be too hot for Trump, but I’m betting you can handle it.

Laura Packard: Second, can you wear a white tshirt to a wave event next week? Be sure to write on it with a marker, "I am a pre-existing condition," so that everyone knows that you’re one of us 130 million strong. Third, are you willing to tell your healthcare story? Everyone on this call has been impacted in some way by a health crisis. It might be your own health or a family member or a friend. There is power in sharing our stories as I’ve learned personally. Will you share your healthcare story with voters? If you will share your healthcare story with voters, press one now. Thank you so much. Together we are unstoppable. Back to you Rahna.

Rahna Epting: Thank you Laura, and thank you for all you’re doing to fight for expanded healthcare coverage in this country, and putting your own voice and your own story, and your own life on the line to do all of this. We are so grateful for your leadership. We have one more speaker before we take some questions. Just a reminder, if you have a question, we will have questions at the end, and you can press star three. You’ll be linked up with a screener who will take your name and figure out what question you want to ask, and then we’ll try to get to as many as we can at the end of tonight’s call.

Rahna Epting: Before we do that, last but definitely not least, I want to pass the microphone to my colleague Mark Crain. He is MoveOn’s Mobile Innovation Director, which means he knows all the ways that you can impact the election using your smartphone. Mark and his team, they’ve built a program that’s sending more than 50 million texts this election cycle, and they’re also experimenting with some very cool friend-to-friend get out the vote technology that he’ll share with us. Mark, go ahead.

Mark Crain: Yes, thank you Rahna. Good evening everyone. I’m so happy to be on this call with you all. I have been sending emails and text messages to MoveOn members, millions of MoveOn members for years now, but I think this may be the first time that I’ve been on one of these ready to resist and win calls. So I’m excited. I get to talk to you for a couple of minutes about cell phones basically, and how important they are to our efforts this cycle to take back the House and win so many other races for progressive candidates across the country.

Mark Crain: So today, 77% of Americans own a smartphone. 95% have a cell phone in general, but 77% own a smartphone. We’re in the year 2018 where a majority of people are opening our emails on their phones, they’re on their phones hours throughout the day, they’re tuned into some apps five, six hours a day, and so ... And as some of you know, a cell phone is actually the only way that a lot of
people are getting online at all. So they're really key to the way that we interact today.

Mark Crain: So when we're out there organizing in communities all across the country to save the Affordable Care Act, to pass Medicare for all, to see real universal healthcare, when we're mobilizing hundreds of thousands of people to show up at rallies across the country, or wave events. When we're pushing for all that, we've gotta meet people where they are. So when we reach out, we're texting you, maybe we're meeting you on Facebook Messenger, and we're doing that to share the critical news that folks need to hear and to invite you into or keep you involved in this movement with us through meaningful actions that you can usually take right there on the spot.

Mark Crain: I'm excited to share with you some of the tools that we're using this cycle. The first is Spoke, and Spoke as we use it with our MoveOn text team. Every day there are hundreds of people sitting at home or at work, in their cars or at their desks, texting other MoveOn members and other voters. In fact, texting millions of them all across the country. It's really incredible. We have some people who have literally texted more than a million people this year by themselves. The people that they're texting are pledging to vote, nearly 300,000 of them so far in the last six weeks. They're showing up to waves by the hundreds and the thousands. They're going to be voting for the candidates that MoveOn members endorsed. And so they're doing really incredible work.

Mark Crain: Folks all across the country, especially if you're in a district where you do not have the opportunity to attend a wave, we really want you to consider joining our MoveOn text team. We build a lot of comradery in our Slack team. There's a huge community of us who are in there every day creating stories, cheering each other on, celebrating victory as we reach out to millions of people and get them involved in this movement to take back the House and to build progressive power for the long term. So that's the first part of it. You can join our text team by visiting moveon.org/text, T-E-X-T. You can use the open source peer-to-peer texting tool that we've built, Spoke, from your phone, from your tablet, from your laptop. You can join the team. There's no reason that you can't get involved if you want to, and we hope that you'll consider it. So that's the first tool and we're excited to share it.

Mark Crain: The second one, which I'll just walk you through really quickly, is called Outvote. Outvote is a new app that we're using this cycle that is gonna allow you to contact your friends who are Democratic voters, or even folks who are not Democratic voters, but you'll know it when you reach out to them, and encourage them to vote or start a conversation about who they're voting for, and talk through it with them and explain why you're supporting the candidates you're supporting. And so this app you'll download.

Mark Crain: You can download it at moveon.org/outvote, one word. And when you download it and you follow that link, you're gonna end up on MoveOn's
dashboard. You're gonna see the hundred plus districts that we've endorsed in, and you're gonna see which friends you have in those districts. You're gonna know if they're Democratic voters. You're gonna know if they vote often or if they usually skip midterms. And you're gonna be able to send them a script telling them that you're voting and asking them if they are gonna vote. As we get feedback from members like you across the country, we're gonna be updating the scripts. We're gonna be adding more to talk to different types of folks in your contact list so we can reach as many people as possible to make sure, again, that we are taking back the House.

Mark Crain: I want to wrap it up there and I want to just ask a quick question. That is simply, will you join the mobile team? If you are up for it, if you are up to joining our MoveOn text team or to being one of our Outvote users and talking to your friends, we invite you to press one and let us know right now so that we can follow up with you in the days to come to make sure that you're plugged into our program. If you'll join the text team to text potential voters or become an Outvote user to text your friends, please press one right now. Thank you all so much.

Rahna Epting: Thank you Mark. Amazing, just in the 10 seconds you announced the poll, we have 510 volunteers to join the text team. I'm sure that number is gonna pop up in 30 more seconds, up and increase up. So thank you so much Mark. Thank you to everybody. We had so many speakers on the call. Now is the time we're going to open it up to questions. But before I do, just a reminder, be sure to go to moveon.org/wave to find a voter event near you. You can join the mobile team and we've also asked you to share your healthcare story. So if you took the poll and indicated interest in any of these, we will be following up with you in the days to come. Great news, we already have over a thousand folks that have volunteered to join the mobile team. This is great. We have time for a couple of questions, and we are going to go to some of our folks who have questions for us. Let's first go to Sherry Duarte who's in West Warwick, Rhode Island. Sherry has a question about healthcare for Laura. Shelly, excuse me, not Sherry. Shelly Duarte.

Shelly Duarte: Hi, how are you?

Rahna Epting: Hi, good.

Shelly Duarte: I'm a cancer patient, and I actually have been fighting for about 10 years off and on. I have Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. It keeps coming back. I actually have scans tomorrow and I start re-treatment on Thursday. So when Trump became president, I had a meltdown because of course, the healthcare, being denied insurance, sky high premiums, lifetime caps. I went to the women's march. My sign said, "Repeal of Obama Care is premeditated murder." I just want to see how we can save the pre-existing condition law. I can't wait until 2020 for a Democratic president, that's why midterms are so important to me, so that we can win and save Obama Care. So what else can we do? What else can I do to
help stop the Republicans in their tracks? I mean my life depends on it, and millions of others do. If they repeal this law, like I said, I'm gonna be denied the insurance. I'm gonna have sky high premiums which I won't be able to afford. I'll have a lifetime cap, and in the end I'm gonna die. So what can be done?

Laura Packard: Hi Shelly [crosstalk 00:47:42]

Rahna Epting: Go ahead Laura.

Steven Martin: This is Steven.

Rahna Epting: Sure. Let's go to Steven.

Steven Martin: I just want to first off say thank you for asking that question. That question hits me right in the gut because I am a cancer patient too, and I have been a cancer patient for going on a few years now. I know that feeling of living like November 11th every single day after that last election. I am so inspired by your willingness to want to get out there and protect pre-existing conditions. What I say is, just start showing up at anything that's in your proximity. This is the number one rule, is just to show up and tell your story as beautifully as you told it today on this phone call. It makes a really [crosstalk 00:48:48] impactful difference.

Shelly Duarte: Yeah, I'm sorry. I went to a Hillary Clinton rally, and actually she pulled me in and I talked to her one on one and showed her my cancer photos and talked to her about Obama Care. This was, of course, before the election. She told me she cared and she gave me a huge. Like I said, when Trump won, it was just like ... I went to bed and I just cried because I was like, "My life is on the line."

Steven Martin: I broke down on Santa Monica Boulevard for over an hour and a half and was consoled by strangers. I know that exact feeling, and your story is so powerful. People may not know it, but they need to hear it. And so you just need to start saying your story in every space that you can, and appropriately too, not just running outside. But, it makes a very large impactful difference when people start to get exposed to the realities and seeing face to face what repeals would do. Because as you said, it is premeditated murder. Cancer patients, dialysis patients, are terrified across this country, and I would encourage you to find any wave event or any sort of event and just show up, go talk to people. You'll find that there is a little bit of comfort in that, and you will continue to inspire people with your story. They will continue the fight as well, or they might just start up and start the fight for the first time, so that ... It's a very simple answer, I'm sorry, but it is the truth of it all. Show up and tell your story. Be heard.

Rahna Epting: Thanks Steven. Laura, did you want to respond to this as well?

Laura Packard: I think he covered it. Make sure to contact your legislators and make sure to reach out to the media too, so that they can't ignore us.
Rahna Epting: Thank you. We'll take another question from Memphis. We have, Key Moses from Memphis has a question about the midterms. Key Moses, are you with us still? Well I'll ask the question on their behalf. The question-

Key Moses: Yes, I'm here.

Rahna Epting: Oh. Well go ahead with your question.

Key Moses: Yes, I'm just calling because, and I just thank y'all for everything that y'all do. It really means a lot to be a part of what's taking place, which I do believe is history. But I sometimes get discouraged and I'm trying to figure out what we as activists can do to continue to encourage people to vote blue, but when we have candidates that aren't broadcasting blue values. Like here in Tennessee right now, a lot of people are discouraged because of the comments that were made with the Kavanaugh. Do you have any suggestions of something we can do to strategize and move the momentum towards that in the face of all this adversary with women not being able to be recognized and empowered even though in Shelby County, we're 60% of the turnout. So I was just trying to find some innovative ways from other people like-minded to see how we can stay encouraged in spite of the things that are taking place.

Rahna Epting: Great question. Liia, do you want to take this one?

Liia Uustal: Yeah, sure. Thank you for that question, and I feel your frustration as well. I think the big thing, and I'll keep this brief, the big thing is we need to set up a structure in place so that progressive candidates all up and down the ballot, in local, state, and federal offices, can be the ones that are representing communities out there. So one of the big things that MoveOn did, if you go to moveon.org/candidates, you can see all of the candidates that we have endorsed. Those are a mixture of folks that are reflective of the communities that they're representing. That's really, really important.

Liia Uustal: I think also in the future, the biggest thing that you can do is to start organizing and mobilizing your communities. Come to wave events, get to know what's happening in your community, and then you can work with folks who may be that progressive champion that you're looking for in the future and may run in a future race. So, I think the biggest thing to start is to check out some of the issues and values that the candidates that we've endorsed represent, and then come out to wave events and get involved.

Rahna Epting: I would add, I mean unfortunately there are districts out there where our Democrats aren't as progressive as we want them to be. I don't know your exact district, but it's still important that we're showing up and building relationships for those Democrats, and talking to them about the issues, and pushing them, encouraging them to hear from us and what our stories are. You're a constituent, so whether that candidate fully represents you or not, if they get elected to office it is their job to represent you. You are their constituent. So
building relationships, showing up at their campaign, if there are MoveOn waves in that area, going to them. It’s all important, because if we don’t show up, then they’re just going to be beholden to the more moderate conservative Democratic wing of their constituency, or maybe the major donors that help fund their campaign. So it’s really important we’re there, we’re building relationships from when they’re candidates, and then we hold those relationships while they’re in office as well. Join together with your friends, you can reach out to MoveOn and organize something yourself. You can organize a wave during the candidacy for these folks. We will take-

Key Moses: Yeah, I-

Rahna Epting: Oh, we ... Oh, I’m sorry.

Steven Martin: May I add to that really quick?

Rahna Epting: Yes.

Steven Martin: If you feel like you’ve inspired everybody that you know to the point of where they’ve hit their inspiration feeling, you might also want to think about what it might look like if you ran for something and something important. That’s a very inspiring way to get people’s attention.

Rahna Epting: Thank you Steven. So we unfortunately have to wrap folks. We have tons more conversation we could be happening, but we encourage you to join us for future Resist and Win organizing calls. They’re every Sunday through the election. Later this evening we’ll post the audio recording, live stream link, and a PDF of the slideshow to moveon.org/readytoresist. So if you haven’t already, you can also sign up to RSVP for the upcoming calls with Kamala Harris, Bernie Sanders, and Elizabeth Warren, at moveon.org/resistandwincalls. After 10 PM tonight, those will all be available. By Wednesday, we’ll also post a transcript of this call, the audio recording, and a PDF of the slideshow, as I said, at that moveon.org/readytoresist.

Rahna Epting: Lastly, we are 23 days out until Election Day. Every one of us can do our part to make an impact this election, whether it’s joining a wave, hosting a wave, joining our text team, showing up, telling your healthcare story everywhere, or some other way to contribute to make sure every single person we know and even those we don’t, show up to vote this election cycle. We can’t take anything for granted in the country right now, and standing up and taking ownership of this democracy and fighting to create a place where we all can thrive, that is all of our responsibility. Thank you so much for taking that on. This is a very special community, and we are honored that you joined us this evening. Thank you to our speakers, for each and every one of you for tuning in, and we hope to talk to you all next week. Have a great evening.