

# Take Health Care Off the Table!

**O**ur health care system is in crisis. Since 2003, when we last bargained with Verizon-East, the average cost of employer-sponsored health insurance has risen by 58%. **Today, only 6% of Americans get fully paid family health care from their employers, and only 20% get fully paid single coverage.**

Those of us with health insurance are paying for those without it. Hospitals and doctors raise fees to cover the services they provide to the uninsured, so costs for employers like Verizon relentlessly increase. Employers who don't provide health insurance get a free ride. That's one factor driving up Verizon's \$2.3 billion health care bill.\*

Verizon wants to solve the problem by forcing us to pay much more for our health care. While the current system punishes employers who provide health care, **the real solution is national health care, not huge co-pays for workers.**

*\*Current annual cost of health care for all active and retired Verizon bargaining unit members. Does not include VZ Business, VZ Wireless, or management. Verizon projects costs will increase by about 9% a year.*

## Verizon's Proposals for Cost Shifting

This reality is reflected in Verizon-East's outrageous November proposals to impose huge levels of cost-shifting for health care:

Verizon's November Proposal for Monthly Employee Contributions			
	Emp. Only	Emp. +1	Emp. + Family
Average active	\$79	\$118	\$158
Pre-Medicare retiree	\$38	\$76	\$95
Medicare retirees	\$22	\$43	\$65

As fewer and fewer workers manage to hold on to free health care, the pressure on CWA and IBEW members at Verizon will only continue to grow. We need to stop cost-shifting today. But in the long run, **Verizon must join CWA, IBEW, other unions, consumer groups, and progressive organizations to find a national solution to this national problem.**



**TAKE HEALTH CARE BENEFITS OFF THE TABLE!**



**TEAR DOWN THE WALL!**

Communications Workers of America ■ [www.cwa-union.org/verizon](http://www.cwa-union.org/verizon) ■ International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers ■ [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org)