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For immediate release:

### **VICKIE BUTCHER WINS KEY ENDORSEMENTS**

Vickie Butcher, 52<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District Democratic Candidate, has received prominent endorsements this week from national, state and local organizations as well as elected officials.

California Nurses Association has endorsed Butcher, praising her “strong stances on healthcare reform, labor and women’s issues.” Butcher, who has years of healthcare reform experience, pledges to be a leading voice in Congress to provide all Americans with the option of universal, affordable healthcare while assuring consumers freedom to choose their own physicians. CNA also lauded Butcher, who is endorsed by House ethics committee chair Stephanie Tubbs Jones, for supporting clean elections.

CNA joins a long line of healthcare reformers, medical professionals and healthcare workers who have endorsed Butcher, including Sylvia Hampton, direct of Healthcare for All, San Diego chapter, Richard Barrera, United Healthcare Workers’ San Diego organizer, Paul Simms, and San Diego County Deputy Health Director (retired).

Progressive Democrats of America endorsed Butcher for supporting its “healthcare not warfare” platform, also citing her support for “swift, safe and orderly return of our troops and military contractors from Iraq, development of sustainable energy, fiscal responsibility and the creation of a stable economy with jobs for all Americans.” PDA was a key force assisting Democratic Congressional challenger Donna Edwards to defeat incumbent Congressman Albert Wynn in Maryland’s February primary election.

State Senator Christine Kehoe, the Martin Luther King Democratic Club, and the Chicano Democratic Federation also announced endorsement of Vickie Butcher for Congress this week.

“I am running to provide a voice to those whose voices have not been heard,” said Butcher, who has devoted her life to public service. A teacher who graduated from law school shortly after her fifth child was born, Butcher chaired the El Cajon planning commission and served on numerous other government bodies, including water and hospital boards. She served on medical and consumer panels for the U.S. Food & Drug

Administration, winning an FDA consumer service award. She's been president of World Affairs Council and El Cajon Rotary. As president of National Medical Association Auxiliary as well as state and local medical groups, she founded a breast cancer awareness program and worked to bring healthcare to those in need, along with her husband, Dr. Richard Butcher, a former Naval officer and Viet Nam veteran. As founder/executive director of Water for Children Africa, Vickie has met with world leaders and led efforts to bring water and medicines to people in 15 countries. Named March of Dimes Mother of the Year for her humanitarian efforts, she has also won awards from the United Nations and the NAACP.

Now Butcher is running for Congress to provide affordable healthcare for all Americans, support strong federal protection from wildfires, end the Iraq/Afghanistan wars and invest in positive programs such as healthcare and education, not warfare. Vickie also supports tax incentives to help the struggling middle class and creation of "green collar" jobs in clean, renewable energy production.

"Forty percent of working people in my district have no healthcare insurance. Many others are under-insured or forced to pay higher and higher premiums for less and less coverage," said Butcher. "Insurance companies are canceling policies after people become ill or refusing to sell policies to anyone with pre-existing conditions, leaving many people with no care at all. This is wrong. I believe all Americans should have the option to be covered by a universal healthcare plan similar to what members of Congress have."

She added, "Under my plan, no one would be forced to buy an insurance plan that they do not want. Consumers would be free to choose their own doctors and ideally, would also be free to retain existing coverage if they choose—though I believe the majority would opt for the security of a universal, single-player healthcare program such as those provided by every other industrialized country in the world. Instead of paying \$12 billion on the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, which even top military experts now agree must end, it's time to bring our troops home safely and invest in healthcare, not warfare. There are better ways to provide for our national security—and assure the health of all Americans."

Readers who wish to obtain more information, volunteer, make a donation or sign a petition urging Congress to make healthcare—not warfare—a priority, should visit [www.votevickiebutcher.com](http://www.votevickiebutcher.com).