EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN FOR AMERICA’S PRIORITIES
Citizen Action/Illinois led a broad-based coalition of unions, consumers, students, and social service agencies to call for investing in important social programs—like Head Start, student loans, and children’s healthcare. Over the past five years, the Bush administration has spent nearly half a trillion dollars in Iraq, while saying that we cannot afford to meet our priorities here at home. In fact, with just one week of Iraq war funding, about two billion dollars, we could have provided 800,000 children with health care coverage for one year.

FIXING MEDICARE PART D
Working to fix Part D continues to be a major priority for Citizen Action/Illinois. As leader of the Medicare Education and Advocacy Campaign, we led six community meetings across Illinois in 2007. The Public Action Foundation (the research and education arm of Citizen Action/Illinois) produced and distributed a guide for Medicare recipients entitled “A Quick Guide for Cautious Consumers” to warn people about the many challenges involved with enrolling in the Part D private insurance prescription drug plans. Citizen Action/Illinois supports fixing the Medicare prescription drug program to allow Medicare to negotiate for the best price on behalf of the 41 million Medicare beneficiaries in America, as well as offering a simple benefit under Medicare with negotiated prices. We also support financial neutrality between payment rates for the Medicare fee-for-service program and the Medicare Advantage program – ensuring that the private plans are no longer paid 12 percent more than traditional fee-for-service plans.

ENDING THE WAR IN IRAQ
In collaboration with our national organization, USAction, Citizen Action/Illinois led Americans Against Escalation in Iraq to call for support of our troops and an end to the war in Iraq. Over a thousand people attended “Take a Stand” events in Peoria, Champaign-Urbana, and Northbrook in August to call on members of Congress to take a stand to end the war in Iraq.

QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL
In 2007, Citizen Action/Illinois helped to convene the Emergency Network to Save Cook County Health Services. The coalition’s goals include restoring availability and access to high quality health care services and establishing an emergency trusteeship to restore faith and public trust in the Cook County Health Care System.

FIGHTING FOR CONSUMER RIGHTS
Citizen Action/Illinois continues to lead the Msgr. John Egan Campaign for Payday Loan Reform. In 2007, the Campaign sought to close the loophole in the Payday Loan Reform Act by supporting SB 1468. The bill passed the Illinois State Senate by an overwhelming majority but was stopped short in the House Financial Institutions Committee in the spring of 2007. The coalition will be back in 2008 to finish the job and to ensure that consumers are protected from the usury practices of Illinois payday lenders. In the fall of 2007, the Public Action Foundation partnered with the Woodstock Institute to release a new study of auto title lending debt collection practices in Illinois entitled “Debt Detour.”

WON ELECTRICITY RATE RELIEF
Citizen Action/Illinois was a leader in the effort to stop electric utility prices from rising 25-50% in 2007. Joining with the Citizens Utility Board and other allies we won $1 billion in rate relief for customers of both ComEd and Ameren.

QUALITY LONG-TERM CARE
Citizen Action/Illinois and the Public Action Foundation continue to support the work of the Illinois Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.
that protects the rights of an estimated 131,000 elderly Illinois residents who live in long-term care facilities. We also promote the work of the Illinois Long Term Care Council.

**PROTECTING OUR CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM**
Citizen Action/Illinois supports our civil justice system as a fundamental check on the power of corporations and opposes special interest efforts to limit the legal rights of citizens. In 2007 we supported public financing for Illinois Supreme and Appellate court elections.

**CREATING A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT**
Citizen Action/Illinois continued its work with the Respiratory Health Association of Greater Chicago to lead the **Illinois Campaign to Clean up Diesel Pollution**. The campaign seeks to reduce local health risks from pollution caused by diesel vehicles. Citizen Action/Illinois also supported the efforts of the Healthy Schools Campaign which won a new state law to promote “green cleaning” in Illinois schools.

**SUPPORTING EDUCATION, STATE FUNDING AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF**
Citizen Action/Illinois partnered with the A+ Coalition to call for full and fair funding of Illinois schools and property tax relief. Working in partnership with the Illinois Education Association and others, Citizen Action/Illinois worked to bring 8,000 teachers, students and community activists to Springfield in May 2007, to call for increased support for public education in Illinois.

**HONORING PROGRESSIVE LEADERS**
In September 2007 at our Annual Dinner, Congressman Luis Gutierrez received the Lerner-Egan Award in honor of his leadership and commitment to social justice.

**2007 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**
Citizen Action/Illinois partnered with the Chicago Federation of Labor to increase voter turnout in the Chicago City Council elections which resulted in the election of new progressive leaders to represent the people of Chicago.

**CABLE TV COMPETITION**
Citizen Action/Illinois worked with Attorney General Lisa Madigan in 2007 to pass the most sweeping consumer reforms of cable television in the country. The Cable and Video Competition Law of 2007 creates a new, more efficient statewide regulatory system that will foster competition between video service providers, bringing consumers lower prices, better service and more choices.

**GET INVOLVED! TAKE ACTION!**
Visit our new, redesigned website ([www.citizenaction-il.org](http://www.citizenaction-il.org)) where you can sign up to receive action alerts, get updates on our campaigns, and see the list of candidates endorsed by the Progressive Action Project for the 2008 elections.

**OUR NATIONAL PARTNERS**
Citizen Action/Illinois is the Illinois affiliate of USAction ([www.usaction.org](http://www.usaction.org)). USAction and its 23 state affiliates join together to win social, racial and economic justice for all. William McNary, co-director of Citizen Action/Illinois, has served as president of USAction since 1999. In 2007, USAction merged with TrueMajorityACTION ([www.truemajorityaction.org](http://www.truemajorityaction.org)). This new partnership will set a new standard for progressive action by combining the netroots with the grassroots.