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BIO: Mark Blum

Mark Blum is Managing Director and CEO of *The America's Agenda Healthcare Education Fund*, a non-profit pioneer in policy development, public education, leadership training, research and analysis related to achieving affordable, high quality health care for all Americans.

Mark serves, also, as Executive Director of *America's Agenda: Health Care for All*, a non-partisan organization that brings together national and international labor unions, businesses, and government leaders who share a common commitment to winning guaranteed access to affordable, high quality health care for every American. Under Mark's direction, America's Agenda has achieved an unrivaled record of success in building and strengthening comprehensive healthcare reform campaigns and winning ground-breaking victories in states across the country.

Mark came to America's Agenda with more than two decades of experience as a political strategist, media advisor, union officer, organizer, and contract negotiator. After completing graduate studies at the London School of Economics in 1979, Mark served as an economics professor in New York City. He was elected president of the faculty senate of the College of Insurance (now at St. John's University), where he organized his first college faculty union before moving on to become National Director of Organizing for the American Association of University Professors. Subsequently, Mark co-founded the consulting firm Organizing Professionals, where he directed winning organizing, legislative, and contract campaigns throughout the country on behalf of international union clients. He also founded Progressive Media, a firm that has developed innovative and effective communications strategies for a variety of legislative, electoral, and public interest campaigns.

Mark has served as advisor on hospital finances to leadership of the California legislature. His various publications include articles on health care economics, collective bargaining, and a recent CD-ROM on union political strategy. He was the first male ever elected to the Board of Directors of the American Medical Women's Association. Internationally, Mark has served as an advisor to Cambodian textile workers organizing the first labor unions in their country's history.