



Health Care is a Big Problem for Small Business

New Small Business Survey Underscores Need for Health Care Reform

Health insurance issues are high on the list of concerns for Ohio's small business leaders. The Small Business Majority, a national small business advocacy group, and Ohio's Small Business Network on Health Care released their survey of 300 Ohio-based small business leaders last week. The small business community sees health care reform as necessary to get the economy back on track and health insurance as a significant barrier to entrepreneurship.

The survey found overwhelmingly that cost is a barrier to providing health insurance and a challenge for those businesses already providing coverage. The survey found some level of support for most reform approaches on the table and that small business owners see themselves as part of the solution. However, there is no consensus among owners on which reform measures are the most viable.

Key findings from the report include:

- 77% of those businesses not offering health insurance say that they cannot afford to do so, while 71% of those who are offering insurance say that they are really struggling to do so;
- 73% say that health care reform is important to getting the economy back on track;
- 72% agree that people should be able to buy health care policies without regard to their health care status, even if it raises the cost of premiums;
- 67% agree that health care is a consideration for people with pre-existing conditions who are thinking about starting a small business;
- 67% say that it is appropriate for individuals, employers, insurers, government, and health care providers to share the responsibility for making health care more affordable.

While there is not one small business voice, there is agreement that our leaders cannot reform the health care system without small business owners having a seat at the table. Small business owners want to be part of the solution. The next step is to engage small business owners in an effort to find common ground.

The report was delivered to each lawmaker office via email or the full report can be viewed at www.smallbusinessmajority.org.

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