



Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage

For immediate release: November 7, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Cathy Levine

Col Owens

Cell: 614-313.7478

Cell: 513.300.3042

clevine@uhcanohio.org

cowens@lascinti.org

MEDIA STATEMENT

The following is a statement from Cathy Levine and Col Owens, Co-Chairs of Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage (OCHC), regarding the passage of health care reform legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"We applaud the House of Representatives for its historic vote to extend access to health care to nearly all Americans. This legislation represents the most significant expansion of health coverage since the passage of Medicare in 1965 and its importance cannot be overstated.

For too many Ohioans, relief from skyrocketing insurance premiums and health care costs, unfair insurance rules, and lack of access to care is long overdue. The House-passed legislation contains important consumer protections and will help all Ohioans obtain health insurance, afford coverage, and have access to the health services they need.

The vote by the House of Representatives is a vote to clamp down on insurance company abuses so that people with pre-existing conditions can no longer be denied coverage or have their coverage canceled. It is a vote to make health insurance more affordable for Ohioans and small businesses. The legislation provides sliding-scale subsidies so middle-class, working families can afford the coverage they need to keep their families healthy and place limits on out-of-pocket spending, giving Americans real health security and peace of mind. It provides for a health insurance exchange which will help small businesses offer coverage to their employees at lower costs. The legislation also expands Medicaid so more low-income Ohioans can get access to care.

While the proposal is not perfect, it represents a real and significant step forward in improving access and affordability. We thank Ohio's Representatives who voted for H.R. 3962. We hope the Senate will act soon to support health care reform that will improve the health of Ohio and our nation."

Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage is a nonpartisan coalition uniting the consumer voice with the goal of achieving affordable, high quality care for all. Our membership includes AARP, AFSCME Council 8 AFL-CIO, American Cancer Society, Cerebral Palsy Association of Ohio, Faith Community Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio, National Alliance for Mental Illness (Ohio), National Multiple Sclerosis Society Ohio Chapters, Ohio ACORN, Ohio Council of Churches, Service Employees International Union, Toledo Area Jobs with Justice, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1059, UHCAN Ohio, We Are The Uninsured, and We Believe Ohio.

Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage

Cathy Levine, Co-Chair

clevine@uhcanohio.org

(614) 456-0060

Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage

Col Owens, Co-Chair

cowens@lascinti.org

(513)300-3042