



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Friday, January 22, 2010

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**Ohio's Economy and Families Need Comprehensive Health Care Reform Now!  
*Containing Health Care Costs Will Stimulate Job Creation and Increase Coverage***

Cleveland, OH—Today, as President Obama delivers a jobs message to residents in Elyria and Cleveland, Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage urges the President and Congress to continue on the path of passing comprehensive health care reform, with the emphasis on *comprehensive*. The result will be healthier citizens and a healthier economy.

A recent study released by the nonpartisan Center for American Progress and researchers from USC's Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics demonstrates that slowing the rate of medical spending will create jobs. The study, *New Jobs Through Better Health Care*, concludes that current health care reform proposals could create 250,000 to 400,000 jobs.

"Many communities in Northeast Ohio and across the state have been devastated by the loss of jobs and health insurance," said Rowena Ventura Chair of Cleveland's We Are the Uninsured. "While Congress has spent months debating health care reform, more people have lost coverage and costs continue to rise. We need health care reform and we need it now."

Without comprehensive health care reform, nearly 230,000 additional Ohioans could lose coverage by 2019. And without reform, businesses, staggered by increasing employee health costs, will either drop coverage or will be unable to make needed investments. As a result, Ohio's economy and the nation's economy – and the ability to create good jobs – will suffer.

"Despite the change in political environment, nothing has changed for our families and small businesses who struggle to obtain affordable health care health care," said Cathy Levine, co-chair of Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage. "We still need comprehensive reform and urge the President and Congress to act now."

**Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage** *is a nonpartisan coalition uniting the diverse 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 Alliance for Retired Americans, Ohio Council of Churches, Progress Ohio, 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.*

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