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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

Cathy Levine  
614.456.0060  
[clevine@uhcanohio.org](mailto:clevine@uhcanohio.org)

Col Owens  
Cell: 513.300.3042  
[cowens@lascinti.org](mailto: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), on the future of federal health care reform with the election of Republican Scott Brown to fill the Senate seat of the late Senator Ted Kennedy.

“The last thing Ohioans need is for the Massachusetts vote to derail health care reform. We have consistently advocated for a bi-partisan solution to the health care crisis and continue to call on Republicans to join with the Democrats to do the right thing for Ohioans who are uninsured, who are struggling to pay for coverage or medical bills, and who are excluded from coverage because of pre-existing conditions. Both the House and Senate plans accomplish a great deal by expanding coverage, lowering costs, and improving quality of care.

The majority of American people want relief from skyrocketing health care costs and for the growing numbers of people without coverage. Both plans in Congress would do that in a uniquely American way that builds on what is working and fixes what is broken.

The fight for national health care reform is far from over. Finalizing a health reform bill will mark an historic achievement that will transform the lives of millions of Americans who today live in fear knowing they are one accident or illness away from bankruptcy, will offer coverage options to those who have had none, and will put the nation on a path to bringing health costs under control.

The status quo is unacceptable and unsustainable and we cannot wait any longer. The time to get health care reform done is now. OCHC calls on all of our elected officials, including Ohio’s Senator George Voinovich, to support reform that will provide health care security for all Americans.”

**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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