



MEDIA ADVISORY

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***San Diego Leaders Vote to Oppose Repeal of Affordable Care Act
San Diegans for Healthcare Coverage Board Sends a Strong Message to Congress***

Extremely concerned that Congress intends to vote on repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), the San Diegans for Healthcare Coverage Board of Directors passed a resolution opposing repeal and calling upon elected officials to preserve the critical consumer protections and expanded access to coverage and care the ACA provides.

“If the health law is repealed, it is the American people who will once again lose,” said Gregory E. Knoll, Esq., SDHCC board member and Executive Director of the Consumer Center for Health Education and Advocacy. “It would be unconscionable to take away the promises and the hopes for better health and a better healthcare system after finally making progress.” Consumers have new and increasing protections under the law and those with health conditions now have access to coverage through the California Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan.

“More small businesses are already providing health insurance due to the tax credits available under reform,” says Richard E. Ledford, SDHCC board member and small business owner. “We are looking forward to implementation of the Health Insurance Exchange which will help to level what is currently a very uneven and challenging playing field for small businesses.” Starting in 2010, many small businesses are eligible for a tax credit for coverage. Individuals, families and businesses with fewer than 100 employees will be able to access health insurance through the California Exchange in 2014.

“Our Board voted to oppose repeal of the Affordable Care Act because of the irreparable harm it will do to individuals and families, as well as to our economy,” said Jan C. Spencley, Executive Director of San Diegans for Health Care Coverage (SDHCC), “We cannot go back to a system that denies needed health coverage and access to health care to so many San Diegans.” It is estimated by UCLA that close to one in four San Diegans were without health coverage in 2009. A recent report in Health Affairs estimates that with the health law 96% of documented Californians will have healthcare coverage by 2016 and that San Diego is expected to experience the largest reduction in those without insurance coverage.

The Board acknowledged that the ACA is not perfect, for some not going far enough and for others representing burdens and underfunding that they want rectified; however, they quickly determined to oppose repeal and ask elected officials to work together to address these issues while preserving the many benefits, protections and hope health reform provides the American people. The resolution was timed to send an urgent message to Washington DC, where legislators are on the brink of voting on repeal of health reform legislation.

Attached

SDHCC Board Resolution Opposing Repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordability Act of 2010 – 01/12/2011

SDHCC Board of Directors



January 12, 2011 Action

**Approved Board Resolution
Opposing Repeal of Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act**

San Diegans for Healthcare Coverage (SDHCC) is a nonprofit organization formed in 2002 with a mission of expanding meaningful coverage and access to care. The SDHCC coalition is comprised of representatives from business, consumer, labor, hospital, community clinic, physician, academia, government, faith-based, and community based organizations.

Be it resolved that SDHCC hereby opposes the repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) due to the significant harm repeal would cause to progress and improvements to health coverage, costs and individual and community health, especially to San Diegans.

The ACA is a long-overdue, positive step forward which is already generating benefits that individuals, families and businesses cannot afford to lose. As a result of the ACA:

- An estimated 96% of documented non-elderly California residents will have healthcare coverage by 2016; San Diego is expected to experience the largest percentage reduction in those lacking insurance in California
- Consumer protections now allow adult children to stay on their parents' policy until they are 26; previously denied infants and children under 19 with a health condition are gaining coverage; individuals cannot lose coverage due to a health condition; and, uninsurable individuals can access affordable coverage through the Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP). In 2014, no one will be denied coverage due to a health condition.
- Both businesses and individuals will be able review and compare standard benefit plan options and enjoy a level playing field through the purchasing power of the Health Insurance Exchange; individuals will get help with purchasing coverage through the Exchange if they do not have job-based coverage and cannot afford to purchase coverage on their own.
- Both businesses and individuals will know that their premiums are being spent primarily on health care, and will be protected from unjustifiably high premium increases.
- More small businesses are already offering coverage to employees: nearly 60% of firms with 3-9 employees offered coverage in 2010 compared to 46% in 2009. Another 33% of small firms indicated they are more likely to offer coverage due to tax credits and 33% due to the ability to purchase through the Exchange.
- The federal deficit will be increasingly reduced over the next two decades; with repeal, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the deficit will increase by \$230 billion and health care costs as a percent of GDP will continue to escalate.

As with any significant and complex legislation, there are provisions within the ACA that require adjustment and improvement. These include ensuring appropriate, realistic and equitable provider payment provisions, elimination of undue business burdens like 1099 reporting, and simplification of other complex provisions resulting from negotiation, and these should be rectified. However, this does not require ACA repeal which would do more harm than good to the American people.

SDHCC calls upon our elected officials to work collaboratively to address outstanding issues, while preserving the benefits and protections of the ACA, so that the vision of improved health for all Americans can be realized.

Approved by SDHCC Board of Directors, January 12, 2011



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Effective 01/12/2011