

For Immediate release:

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**SPAN Ohio's response to the National Health Reform Bill:
We need the Health Care for All Ohioans Act now!**

With the passage of HR 3590 Sunday evening, March 21, 2010, Congress has attempted to reform the dysfunctional health care finance system of America. Though portrayed as a political success, it is a public policy nightmare. Millions of Americans will remain uninsured and under-insured in spite of the promises made by proponents of this legislation. Costs are likely to continue to outpace the growth of our economy as they have in Massachusetts where this model of reform has been in existence for the past three years.

Insurance company anti-trust exemptions stay firmly in place resulting in rigged prices that either make "individually mandated" insurance too expensive to buy or too expensive to use through co-pays and deductibles that drive so many into bankruptcy.

While the expansions for Medicaid in the bill are laudable, the additional billions promised to the insurance industry in mandated and subsidized policy premiums will soon prove that this legislation is economically unsustainable for the average business or individual. Consequently, the need for more substantial reform that provides comprehensive coverage and reliable cost control will become immediately apparent.

State programs like **The Health Care for All Ohioans Act**, Ohio HB 159, are now more pressing than ever. Ohio HB 159 creates a publicly financed but privately delivered health care system with everybody in and nobody out. It is the only solution that provides universal health care access and reduces overall cost. Waiting years for the implementation of a federal program that sentences thousands of Ohioans to suffering and death is not acceptable. We need the Health Care for All Ohioans Act passed now.

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