

The Small Business Coalition for Affordable Healthcare

www.SmallBusinessHealthcareCoalition.com

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Small Business Coalition for Affordable Healthcare Statement: White House Healthcare Summit

In response to the White House Summit on healthcare reform, the following statement was released today on behalf of the Small Business Coalition for Affordable Healthcare. The Small Business Coalition for Affordable Healthcare is the nation's leading small business coalition dedicated to increasing access and affordability of private health insurance for small-business owners, the self-employed, employees and their dependents.

“The high cost of insurance is one of the most critical issues facing small business – and for them it is both a healthcare issue and a pocketbook issue. Today’s White House Summit on Healthcare Reform highlights that the Administration, Congress and all stakeholders must work in unison to address growing and unsustainable healthcare costs.

“Small businesses are America’s job creators. They employ half of all private sector employees and have generated 60 to 80 percent of net new jobs over the last decade, but are continually hampered by one of the fastest growing and most unpredictable costs of doing business – the high cost of healthcare. Since 1999 health insurance premiums for small firms have increased by 113 percent, and the nation’s smallest firms pay an average of 18 percent more in health insurance premiums for the same benefits than those in the largest firms.

“Ever-increasing costs affect both the insured and uninsured in the small business community. Today, only about half of all small businesses offer insurance, and those not offering cite cost as the primary reason. Similarly, of the nearly 68 million people working for small businesses who obtain their insurance through the employer-based system, they consistently cite costs as a challenge to maintaining that coverage.

“The necessity for healthcare reform tailored to the needs of small business cannot be overstated. Reform begins with developing solutions that address the unsustainable cost of healthcare. Reining in costs is essential to ensuring that every American has access to quality, affordable and sustainable healthcare options.

“The Small Business Coalition for Affordable Healthcare is committed to working with the Obama Administration and Congress to craft meaningful, bipartisan solutions to the healthcare cost crisis.”

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About The Small Business Coalition for Affordable Healthcare

The Small Business Coalition for Affordable Healthcare is a group of more than 150 organizations dedicated to increasing access and affordability of private health insurance for small-business owners, the self-employed, employees and their dependents.