



For Immediate Release

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Pelz to McKenna: "Keep your hands off of our Health Care"

Washington State Democratic Party Chair Dwight Pelz blasted Attorney General Rob McKenna for threatening to sue to stop the implementation of National Health Insurance Reform, adopted last night by Congress.

According to the Christian Science Monitor, McKenna participated in a conference call last night with Attorneys General where they developed a plan to sue to block the implementation of the new law which will make access to health care a right for all Americans.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Justice/2010/0322/Attorneys-general-in-12-states-poised-to-challenge-healthcare-bill>

"Keep your hands off of our health care coverage Mr. McKenna.", said Pelz. "You and your wife and you children can see a doctor when they are sick, but for over 400,000 people in Washington that is not the case. Each year around 1,000 residents of our state die because they do not have health care coverage." ¹

According to the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Washington residents will benefit greatly from the Health Insurance Reform Bill. It will: ²

- Give tax credits and other assistance to up to 1,455,000 families to help them afford coverage.
- Give tax credits and other assistance to up to 163,600 small businesses to help them afford coverage.
- Improve Medicare for 910,000 beneficiaries, including closing the donut hole.
- Extend coverage to 442,500 uninsured residents.
- Guarantee that 105,200 residents with pre-existing conditions can obtain coverage.
- Protect 10,700 families from bankruptcy due to unaffordable health care costs.
- Allow 526,000 young adults to obtain coverage on their parents' insurance plans.
- Provide millions of dollars in new funding for 229 community health centers.
- Reduce the cost of uncompensated care for hospitals and other health care providers by \$327,000,000 annually.

The Monitor reported that the AG's will challenge the bill's inclusion of a federal mandate requiring all Americans to purchase health insurance. "We require all Americans to pay for Social Security and to pay for Medicare.", said Pelz. "Is McKenna going to challenge those two programs also?"

"Rob McKenna should be more concerned about the health of Washington's families than about the ideology of his Right Wing Republican backers.", concluded Pelz.

end

¹ (Harvard Medical School researchers found that nearly 45,000 people die in the United States each year in large part because they lack health insurance and can not get good care. Washington is 2% of the nation's population. <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE58G6W520090917>)

² http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press_111/health_care/districts/new/WA8.Reichert.pdf

**The Benefits of Health Care Reform
in Washington State
March 2010**

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Area	Statewide	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
Improve coverage for XXX residents with health insurance.	4,186,000	524,000	480,000	478,000	379,000	416,000	383,000	479,000	595,000	452,000
Give tax credits and other assistance to up to XXX families to help them afford coverage.	1,455,000	120,000	173,000	176,000	179,000	185,000	182,000	157,000	120,000	163,000
Give tax credits and other assistance to up to XXX small businesses to help them afford coverage.	163,600	18,600	20,200	16,800	15,200	16,800	16,600	21,300	20,000	18,100
Improve Medicare for XXX beneficiaries, including closing the donut hole.	910,000	84,000	110,000	116,000	102,000	117,000	122,000	84,000	84,000	91,000
Extend coverage to XXX uninsured residents.	442,500	24,000	53,000	53,500	107,000	43,500	62,500	29,500	20,500	49,000
Guarantee that XXX residents with pre-existing conditions can obtain coverage.	105,200	8,300	12,300	12,500	19,200	10,800	12,700	8,900	9,000	11,500
Protect XXX families from bankruptcy due to unaffordable health care costs.	10,700	1,100	1,200	1,500	1,500	1,200	1,300	800	1,000	1,100
Allow XXX young adults to obtain coverage on their parents' insurance plans.	526,000	52,000	62,000	61,000	61,000	66,000	57,000	61,000	45,000	61,000
Provide millions of dollars in new funding for XXX community health centers.	229	11	24	18	49	30	21	49	6	21
Reduce the cost of uncompensated care for hospitals and other health care providers by XXX million annually.	\$ 327	\$ 15	\$ 42	\$ 21	\$ 63	\$ 57	\$ 33	\$ 46	11	39