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SW PA LEGISLATORS HONORED FOR EFFORTS ON

STATE-BASED HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

You might be surprised to know that whatever happens with national health insurance reform, state-based efforts continue strongly in Pennsylvania, focused on The Family & Business Health Security Act being considered in the State legislature.

Among the 97 sponsors of this bill, 12 legislators from SW Pennsylvania have been honored as recipients of the 2009 Heroes in Healthcare award, given jointly by Pennsylvania United for Single-payer Healthcare and HealthCare4AllPA.org. They are Senators Ferlo, Logan and Fontana and Representatives Preston, Deasy, Kortz, Harhai, Kula, Mahoney, Walko, White and Gibbons.

They understand that shifting health insurance costs to taxpayers and off the backs of businesses will jumpstart the state economy and give businesses the flexibility to spend money on expansion and jobs creation, instead of on health care costs, including legacy costs. Lowering these costs for state and local governments also inhibits tax increases.

In addition, when all State residents pool their premiums into one trust fund administered like Medicare, then the cost of profits, advertising, executive bonuses and private jets are removed from the health insurance system, making it more affordable for everyone. The proposed bill would not affect or change in any way how health care services are provided, because it addresses insurance coverage only. The bill also includes a two-year re-training support program for health insurance company employees in the State.

Clearly these legislators understand that health insurance costs are a major barrier to business development and that a commonwealth system of universally shared costs and universal coverage would produce not only jobs, but also improved lifelong access to health care for all Pennsylvanians.

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PUSH [PA United for Singlepayer Healthcare]
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