



Media Release

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Contact :

Dr. Scott Poppen
801- 556-6642

Judi Hilman, Utah Health Policy Project
Mobile: (801) 870-3887/ judi@healthpolicyproject.org

Utah Health Care Providers Support Federal Health Reform

Salt Lake City, UT— Today, a group of health care providers announced that **over 900 Utah health care providers—over 530 of which are Utah physicians—wrote** Congressman Matheson and Utah’s congressional delegation **to show their support for health care reform.** They purchased an ad, which will run in the Salt Lake Tribune and Deseret News to demonstrate their united message, which can be seen at the website: www.utahwhitecoats.org.

Here is what Utah’s health professionals have to say about reform:

“I see in my practice on a daily basis the need for health insurance reform,” says Dr. Scott Leckman, a general surgeon and a former president of the Utah Medical Association. *“Utahns need to know they will have health insurance when they need it.”*

Sussan Chasson is a nurse practitioner from Utah County. *“People think if health reform fails then everything will just remain same. But that isn’t true. The more uninsured Utahns in our communities, the more it impacts everyone’s access to care—even those with insurance.”*

Dr. Mario Cappelletti, the geneticist and 2007 Nobel Prize Winner adds *“It doesn’t take a Nobel Prize winner to know it’s time to enact comprehensive health reforms, and it’s time for Congressman Matheson to give Utah a voice in this historic decision.”*

At a press conference today, Utah health care providers spoke around a theme of needing to get started on health reforms that improve access, contain costs and enhance quality. *“This landmark piece of legislation provides increased access to affordable health coverage while also reducing the deficit and bending the cost curve over the next decade,”* says Dr. Scott Poppen, an internal medicine physician from Sandy. *“Health reform will implement market reforms to protect our patients, invest in the primary care provider workforce and public health system, and begin to reform the payment and delivery systems so doctors and other health care providers can focus on providing high quality care for our patients.”*

Dr. Ellie Brownstein, a pediatrician, adds *“Doing nothing is not an option; the status quo is unsustainable. For the health of our children and the financial health of the nation they are to inherit, I urge Congressman Matheson and Utah’s Congressional Delegation to support the final health reform package. We cannot wait another year, another day, another hour to get started on meaningful reforms. This is our chance; let’s get it done.”*

The U.S. House of Representatives will likely vote on the final health reform package this week.

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To read the Utah White Coats letter visit www.utahwhitecoats.org

To arrange interviews with these or other Utah health care providers, contact Jessica Kendrick at the Utah Health Policy Project, 801-433-2299 or jessica@healthpolicyproject.org