



## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Today's Date: February 25, 2010

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**Salt Lake City** – Members of Congress joined President Obama today for a Bipartisan Health Care Summit. Over 6 hours, they discussed each party's solutions for cost containment, insurance reform, expanding coverage, and reducing the federal deficit.

"It was heartening to see the fair amount of agreement that does exist between the two parties, especially around the need to get started on health reforms. Almost each summit participant relayed a tragic story they had heard from one of their constituents—[stories we hear every day](#) in Utah from our families and neighbors," says Judi Hilman, Executive Director of the Utah Health Policy Project. "Each of us, including those of us who are insured, stand to gain from comprehensive health reforms."

A recent poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation, found that Americans are evenly split in their support for the overall package, 43% to 43%. However, support is significantly higher, a clean majority of Americans, for individual pieces of the proposal such as reforming the way health insurance works, providing tax credits to small businesses, creating a health insurance exchange/marketplace, closing the Medicare doughnut hole, and expanding high risk insurance pools.

"Congress needs to pass comprehensive health care reform now; the consequences of nothing are too dire—for our families, for small businesses, for our economy, and for the fiscal soundness of our government," says Jessica Kendrick, Community Engagement Director. "But time is running out to pass reform; we cannot let the door close on this historic opportunity. It's time to put politics aside and make sure Utah has a voice in the next decisive stage of the process.

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