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Utah at a Crossroads: Time to Get Started on National Health Reform

Today the national consumer advocacy organization Families USA released a report that shows how the Senate health care bill, *The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*, will dramatically increase coverage for Utahns. An estimated 237,000 Utahns will gain health insurance coverage under the legislation being debated right now in the Senate.

Dulsi Beaslin is one of those uninsured Utahns. She and her husband own two small businesses and cannot afford coverage. Her pre-existing condition (asthma) puts the cost of any health insurance policy completely out of reach for the Beaslin family.

"Our state and nation need health reform, so entrepreneurial families like mine can buy affordable health insurance regardless of pre-existing conditions and aren't left praying that no one in our family gets sick," says Dulsi.

The report also highlights that if the health reform bill fails to pass, then the number of uninsured Utahns will grow by 61,000 to 413,000.

"These numbers underscore how important action around health reform is by the Senate this year," says Judi Hilman, Executive Director of the Utah Health Policy Project. "Although the legislation itself isn't perfect, that status quo is not an acceptable alternative. Utahns with and without health insurance stand to gain from reform. It's time to get started."

The Senate bill expands coverage by ensuring access, making premiums affordable, and strengthening Medicaid. More information about these proposals is available at www.healthpolicyproject.org/National.html

tags: families usa, healthcare

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