



National Health Council

1730 M Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036-4561 • 202-785-3910 • www.nationalhealthcouncil.org • info@nhcouncil.org

For Immediate Release

March 24, 2010

Contact: Nancy Hughes

202-973-0550

nhughes@nhcouncil.org

National Health Council Applauds Passage of Health Care Reform Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 24, 2010) — The National Health Council (NHC), an organization providing a united voice for more than 133 million people with chronic diseases and disabilities and their family caregivers, applauds the work of the President and Congress in enacting health care reform legislation that will benefit the patient community. NHC President Myrl Weinberg issued the following statement.

People living with chronic conditions and their family caregivers may not appreciate the nuts and bolts of passing legislation. They do, however, understand the gravity of their own personal situation. The everyday realities for the people the NHC represents continue to be filled with health challenges and financial uncertainty as they struggle to maintain their health, independence, and well-being.

The NHC worked closely with many Members of Congress to ensure that the interests of the patient and caregiver community were addressed in the final bill, and passage of the legislation will dramatically improve the lives of people with chronic conditions. Improvements include making insurance available to those who cannot currently afford it, eliminating discriminatory insurance practices such as exclusions for people with pre-existing conditions and annual and lifetime benefits caps, and improving access to long-term care. Families with children who are ill will have greater security knowing their child cannot be denied insurance coverage due to a pre-existing condition and that older children can remain on a parent's insurance policy until the age of 26.

The NHC strongly applauds this unprecedented step in ensuring that the health care needs of all Americans are met. We look forward to continuing to serve as a partner and resource in the effort to Put Patients First in health care through implementation of this legislation.

###