



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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January 28, 2009

The Honorable John Conyers
U.S. House of Representatives
2426 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Conyers,

On behalf of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, I write in support of your legislation, "The United States National Health Insurance Act (HR 676)."

The U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a Resolution in Support of the United States National Health Care Act, H.R. 676, at our 77th annual meeting in June 2008. Cities nationwide are experiencing unprecedented budget deficits and millions of citizens losing jobs through no fault of their own, are losing health insurance benefits or if they are self-insured, the means to pay for it. Spiraling health insurance premiums are causing businesses that want to provide health insurance to their employees to have more and more difficulty doing so as increasing costs cause loss of competitiveness in world markets.

It is estimated that 18,000 individuals die each year due to lack of access to medical care and while the number of uninsured has been estimated at 47 million, this number will rise precipitously with the increasing number of unemployed. Millions with insurance have coverage so inadequate that a major illness would lead to financial ruin. Medical illness and bills have contributed to one-half of all bankruptcies.

If you have any question please feel free to contact Assistant Executive Director Crystal Swann at 202-861-6707 or myself.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Cochran".

Tom Cochran
CEO & Executive Director

cc: Leadership Conference for Guaranteed Health Care