



The Board of Directors of the Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of its 610 members who create jobs and provide quality, affordable health insurance to thousands of Americans, wish to urge caution in addressing one of the most difficult problems facing our nation today – reforming the health care system. Legislation being proposed in the House of Representatives would devastate small business and higher-income individuals.

The “public option,” being discussed would create unfair competition for private health insurance providers, resulting in a mass exodus of individuals from private insurance to the proposed “public option.”

Exploding costs have led to sharp reductions in payments to providers of health care that are forced to try to pass on their losses to the private sector. The proposed legislation does little to address the factors driving increased health care costs. More government control will undoubtedly lead to higher taxes and/or an increase in the spiraling Federal budget deficits.

We are additionally opposed to the proposed employer mandate to provide minimally acceptable coverage, thus eliminating choice in the amount of coverage to provide and further driving up the cost of providing health care benefits. The mandates would force employers to reduce their expenses in other areas, such as cutting the payroll by eliminating jobs, increasing the staggering rates of unemployment.

It is our opinion that the proposed legislation, if passed, would contribute to a worsening of the severe recession gripping the country.

We call on Congress to enact reforms that improve the health system without jeopardizing those who currently have coverage.

Sincerely,

Dr. J.B. Stroud, Chairman
Thibodaux (Louisiana) Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Copy: Louisiana’s Federal Delegation
Speaker of the House of Representatives
President Barak Obama