



## Media Advisory

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On Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at 12:45 p.m. Tennessee Health Care Campaign will host a press conference in Legislative Plaza to highlight the one-year anniversary of the new health care law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. THCC will be hosting a birthday party for the law in the halls of Legislative Plaza to celebrate the protections and benefits that have taken effect since the bill was signed by President Obama one year ago. We will have cake, decorations and birthday goodie bags for each of our legislators to help them understand how real Tennesseans are benefiting from the new law.

Vanderbilt physicians, Dr. Jim Powers and Dr. Sandra Moutsios, will speak about the Patient's Bill of Rights included in PPACA. Among these protections provided by the new law:

- Banning pre-existing condition exclusions by insurance companies (for children now and for adults in 2014)
- Ensuring the freedom of all patients to choose their doctor
- Ending lifetime limits on health care coverage
- Preventing insurance companies from dropping policyholders when they get sick
- Cracking down on excessive premium rate increases by insurers

Though all Tennesseans will benefit from the protections, financial help and expanded coverage options that come in 2014, many are already seeing real tangible benefits of the law:

In Tennessee alone:

- 115,000 children with pre-existing conditions are now protected
- 70,800 uninsured young adults are now eligible to stay on their parents' plan
- 1,043,000 Medicare beneficiaries have access to free preventive health services
- 74,800 Medicare beneficiaries received a prescription drug rebate check in 2010

Thanks to the new health care law, children can no longer be denied care or coverage due to a pre-existing medical condition. In Tennessee, this means that 115,000 children are now protected and able to get the care that they need. Parents of children with conditions like asthma, allergies, diabetes or other more serious chronic conditions can now rest easy knowing that their children's health needs will be covered by their family health insurance plan.

<http://www.healthcare.gov/law/provisions/ChildrensPCIP/childrenspcip.html>



# TENNESSEE HEALTH CARE CAMPAIGN



*Working for affordable access to high-quality health care for all Tennesseans*

Under the Affordable Care Act, small businesses with fewer than 25 employees who earn an average wage of \$50,000 or less are now eligible for tax credits to help cover the cost of health insurance for their employees. These tax credits, which cover up to 35 percent of premiums, are helping 66,500 small businesses in Tennessee offer health insurance benefits to their hard-working employees and their families. <http://smallbusinessmajority.org/affordable-care-act-anniversary/1-year/>

In Tennessee, over 70,000 young adults are now eligible to get back on their parents' health insurance plan until age 26. Young adults previously made up a large proportion of the uninsured in this country, but they are also the least likely to need costly care. Therefore, giving them a cost-efficient and accessible way to become insured will lower premiums for the rest of us and give them - and their parents - peace of mind and security as they transition from school to the workforce. <http://www.younginvincibles.org/HealthCare/dependentCoverageFAQs.html>

For the press conference on Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:45 p.m. in the hall of Legislative Plaza, we will be joined by local citizens who have benefited from some of these new protections and will be willing to share their story with the media. If you have questions, please contact Beth Uselton, Executive Director for THCC at the office: (615) 227-7500 or cell: (615) 585-6160.