

2009 - It's Time!

Why We Need National Health Care Reform Now

When Chris Rose and her husband Emory were laid off from their jobs in Jackson last year, they just missed the deadline to receive federal subsidies for their healthcare, so they both paid full price for COBRA in order to continue receiving needed medical care. Although Chris has worked for 25 years as a bookkeeper and Emory as a correctional officer and truck driver, the two have found work to be scarce. They are struggling to pay off \$9000 of medical debt.



Chris and Emory Rose can only afford to insure one person between them since losing their jobs last fall.

As the end-date for their unemployment insurance money quickly approaches

and their savings have been drained with no jobs in sight, Chris found she could no longer afford her COBRA insurance and had to cancel it. So she now pays out of pocket for her blood pressure medication and hopes she doesn't need a doctor visit or any catastrophic care. The two have decided to keep Emory's COBRA because his diabetes would be more expensive to manage without insurance than Chris' heart disease.

The Roses are like many American families who have to choose who among themselves they can afford to insure and whom they cannot. Although they worked their entire adult lives up until this point, they cannot afford health insurance and are forced to play roulette with their lives.



Tennessee Health Care Campaign (THCC)

1103 Chapel Ave., Nashville, TN 37206

(615) 227-7500 • Fax: (615) 846-1946 • Toll-free: 1-877-431-7083 • Web site: www.thcc2.org