

Tennessee Small Businesses Need a Health Care System that Works for All of Us

Why care about small businesses and health care?

Small businesses are the heart of Tennessee's economy and the heart of our communities.

- Tennessee businesses with fewer than 100 employees employed 758,449 workers in 2005. This constituted 31.9 percent of Tennessee's private sector jobs in 2005.
- Over the past decade, small businesses have created 60-80 percent of net new jobs nationwide.¹

Tennessee small businesses are struggling to get affordable health insurance – and losing the battle.

- From 2000 to 2007, the percentage of businesses with fewer than 200 employees offering health benefits dropped from 68 to 59 percent nationwide; businesses with fewer than 50 workers dropped the most.³
- By 2005, less than 36 percent of Tennessee businesses with fewer than 50 workers offered health insurance, compared to 98 percent for businesses with 50 or more workers. This differential is over ten points more than the national average.
- Insurance premiums for small businesses have increased at a faster rate than those of large businesses, and the quality of coverage they receive is lower.⁴

Percent of Businesses Offering Health Insurance in 2005 ²		
	Less than 50 workers	50 or more workers
Tennessee	35.4%	98.0%
U.S.	43.4%	95.7%

What can small business owners do to fix this broken system?

Small business owners are the experts on the broken health care system. No one knows as well as small business owners do how badly our health care system is broken. Small businesses are routinely left vulnerable to the premium hikes, benefit cuts, coverage denials and administrative nightmares that are commonplace in the health care system today.

The voices of Tennessee's small business owners need to be heard. No small business owner acting alone can surmount these challenges. But together, we can make a difference. It will take hard work and commitment, but together we can do our part. That is the promise of a united voice of small business owners across Tennessee coming together to fix the broken health care system.

Join with other small business owners to make your voice heard!

Small Business Owners Round Table

Monday, Oct. 6, 2008 – 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

West End United Methodist Church, 2200 West End. Ave., Nashville, TN

RSVP by Friday, Oct. 3: Freda Player (615) 227-5070 ext.22

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¹ U.S. SBA website, citing U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, <http://app1.sba.gov/faqs/faqIndexAll.cfm?areaid=24>

² Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Center for Financing, Access and Cost Trends. 2005 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey-Insurance Component.

³ Kaiser/HRET Employer Health Benefits 2007 Survey, Ex 2.2, <http://www.kff.org/insurance/7672/sections/ehbs07-2-2.cfm>

⁴ Jon R. Gabel and Jeremy D. Pickreign, "Risky Business: When Mom and Pop Buy Health Insurance for Their Employees," Health Research and Educational Trust, April 2004, p. 2.