

**EDUCATION & LABOR COMMITTEE**

**Congressman George Miller, Chairman**

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*Strengthening America's Middle Class*

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**CHAIRMAN ANDREWS STATEMENT AT SUBCOMMITTEE  
HEARING ON “EXAMINING INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO  
COVERING THE UNINSURED THROUGH EMPLOYER-  
PROVIDED HEALTH BENEFITS”**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – *Below are the prepared remarks of U.S. Rep. Rob Andrews (D-NJ), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions for a subcommittee hearing on “Examining Innovative Approaches to Covering the Uninsured Through Employer-Provided Health Benefits.”*

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This morning I welcome you to the Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions Subcommittee hearing on "Examining Innovative Approaches to Covering the Uninsured through Employer-Provided Health Benefits."

Nearly 47 million Americans do not have health insurance. Americans are struggling everyday to get the healthcare that they need. This hearing will highlight innovative solutions that the federal government should consider in an effort to address the healthcare crisis. Specifically, we will demonstrate that to reduce the number of uninsured, the federal government must provide assistance to states either in the form of a subsidy, provided directly to the employers and/or uninsured employees, or by giving employers the opportunity to buy into a public healthcare program, such as the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Throughout this hearing we will examine the problem of the uninsured, its causes and the problems it is creating for families, employers, states and the federal government. We will listen to various approaches that state governments and Members of Congress are considering to address this crisis. These proposals range from requiring individuals to get coverage to establishing a subsidized purchasing arrangement for individuals and small businesses to buy into for affordable coverage.

The problem of the uninsured impacts every aspect of the health insurance spectrum. Uninsured workers are being denied care. Middle-class families are struggling to pay skyrocketing premiums. Employers are being forced to drop family coverage because they can no longer afford it for their employees. As we move forward this year, I hope this subcommittee will begin to address the rising cost of health insurance and expand coverage for working families.

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