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Long-Term Planning or Triage: Identifying Health Care Solutions for Hispanic Businesses

WHO: Mayra Alvarez, Health Care Policy Advisor, Senator Richard Durbin (IL)
Ana Harvey, President, Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Tom Dawson, Health Care Counsel, Committee on Small Business, U.S. House of Representatives
Stan Dorn, Senior Research Associate, Urban Institute
Stuart Butler, Vice President of Domestic and Economic Policy Studies, The Heritage Foundation
Sylvia Trujillo, Senior Legislative Counsel, American Medical Association

WHAT: Discussion on Health Care and Solutions for Hispanic Small Business Owners

WHERE: U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce 19th Annual Legislative Conference
Marriott at Metro Center
Salon E
775 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

WHEN: 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 10

The choices for a business owner can be painful. You either bleed the company's profit margins by providing employer-sponsored health care or require those employees to fend for themselves. Either way, somebody pays. And both scenarios can hurt a business' bottom line. And how can the self-employed entrepreneur reconcile those same questions over health insurance for his or her own family when the financial barriers can be prohibitively high? While every small business and self-employed professional in America is battling with these life-or-death questions—which resound ever more loudly in this tempestuous economic climate—Hispanics often feel the pinch most acutely.

Employer-sponsored health insurance costs for small and Hispanic-owned companies and for the self-employed continue to surge. The issue intensifies when considering the impact on families. Already nearly one in three Hispanics has to manage without health insurance, and about one in four Hispanic children lacks coverage, even among those with employed parents.

Culprits for this disparity range from higher administrative costs to comparatively reduced purchasing power for small businesses and the self-employed. A significant long-term challenge for the Obama Administration, Congress, and Hispanic business owners will be to adequately balance free-market solutions with government relief for struggling entrepreneurs. An expert panel will provide insights and potential solutions through a discussion on the merits and viability of President Obama's proposed health care plan, plus issues like cost containment via enhanced technological systems, and what it all means for Hispanic businesses and families.

Be a part of the action! Come to the USHCC's 19th Annual Legislative Conference! To learn more, go to www.ushcclegislative.com and register today! MEDIA COVERAGE IS WELCOME!

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ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

Mayra Alvarez is Health Care Policy Advisor to Senator Richard Durbin (IL). Ms. Alvarez works on public health, medical research, health care workforce, minority health and health disparities, and women and children's health issues. Earlier, she served as a Legislative Assistant for former Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis, then chair of the Health Task Force for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Previously she was a David A. Winston Health Policy Fellow in the office of former Senator Barack Obama. She earned her undergraduate degree at the University of California at Berkeley and completed her graduate education at the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Ana Recio Harvey is President and CEO of the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Prior to this, she served as Latino Programs Director for Cultural Tourism D.C. (CTdc). During her tenure, Ms. Harvey has developed relationships with community-based organizations and Latino audiences in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. Concurrently, Ms. Harvey served as President of Syntaxis, LLC, a highly successful SBA 8(a)-certified multilingual communications company with clients from Fortune 500 companies, government agencies, and non profit organizations.

Tom Dawson is Health Care Counsel for the Committee on Small Business at U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Dawson is a principal and co-founder of Smith Dawson & Andrews. He provides senior-level policy and legislative representation to clients, specializing in the areas of energy, transportation, environmental protection, and the congressional budget and appropriations processes. Mr. Dawson graduated from Georgetown University.

Stan Dorn is a Senior Research Associate at the Urban Institute. Mr. Dorn is an expert on Medicaid, SCHIP, auto-enrollment strategies for providing health coverage, Health Coverage Tax Credits, and the uninsured. Previously, Mr. Dorn worked as a Senior Policy Analyst at the Economic and Social Research Institute where he focused on strategies to cover the uninsured. Prior to this, he also served as Director of the Health Consumer Alliance, Health Division Director at the Children's Defense Fund, and Managing Attorney of the National Health Law Program's Washington office. Mr. Dorn is a graduate of Harvard College and the Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California at Berkeley.

Stuart Butler is Vice President of Domestic and Economic Policy Studies at the Heritage Foundation. He joined the Foundation in 1979 as a policy analyst specializing in health and urban issues. Mr. Butler has played a prominent role in the debate over health care, seeking solutions for the uninsured and high health costs through approaches based on individual choice and market competition. Mr. Butler has served as a Fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard University and is also an adjunct professor in public policy at Georgetown University. He received a bachelor's degree, a master's degree in Economics, and a Ph.D. in American Economic History all from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Sylvia Trujillo is Senior Legislative Counsel with the American Medical Association (AMA). Ms. Trujillo has over ten years of public agency and health care law experience. Prior to the AMA, she served as a litigation attorney in the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), Office of the General, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Division. She also served as an Assistant Regional Counsel for HHS where she represented a number of HHS agencies in addition to CMS. Ms. Trujillo received her law degree from the University of California at Berkeley, master's in Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and undergraduate degree from Bryn Mawr College.

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About the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Founded in 1979, the USHCC actively promotes the economic growth and development of Hispanic entrepreneurs and represents the interests of almost 3 million Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States that generate nearly \$400 billion annually. It also serves as the umbrella organization for 200 local Hispanic chambers in the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, Bolivia and Uruguay.