



December 11, 2009

SMALL BUSINESS TALKS HEALTH CARE IN D.C.

This week small business leaders from across the country converged in Washington D.C. to participate in a health care fly-in. Led by the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, the Ohio delegation was the largest from any state. Organizing such a strong delegation to attend the fly-in is just one component of what is currently the most aggressive Ohio Chamber grassroots campaign in recent memory.

Small business owners from Ohio had the opportunity to meet with Senators George Voinovich and Sherrod Brown and Congressmen Stephen LaTourette and John Boccieri. Discussion focused on a number of troubling provisions contained in the national health care reform legislation including employer mandates, new taxes and forcing individuals to participate in insurance exchanges.

All participants agreed that health care reform is necessary because the current system is unsustainable. However, they raised concerns about the impact any new costs would have not only on their bottom line, but their employees. In the meetings, participants explained that many small businesses already offer health care to employees at a fraction of the actual premiums. But under proposals currently before Congress, many employees could lose their employer coverage and may be forced to pick up the full cost for their health care premiums. And, those premiums will likely remain high even with the passage of the current proposals because there is little effort made to rein in costs. While health care reform is still being debated in the U.S. Senate, it appears likely that a bill could pass in the next week or two and reach the President's desk sometime in January.

For more information visit the Ohio Chamber's health care Web site by [clicking here](#). To give Senator Brown and Senator Voinovich your thoughts on health care, [click here](#).

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