



STATEMENT ON HEALTHCARE REFORM

March 18, 2010

Since the inception of Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP), our members have called for reform of the small business market. We do not believe the small business market will be reformed without Congressional action. In the absence of legislative action, we will continue to see unacceptable rate increases and limited access to competitive products. Our polling has shown, time and time again, that women business owners believe rising health care costs is the number one impediment to growth.

We call on Congress to enact the following crucial small business reforms:

- Insurance market reforms that include rating reforms and renewability;
- Ability to band together to form nationwide and statewide purchasing pools;
- The creation of new marketplaces to buy insurance on the state and regional level
- Tax credits to enable and encourage small businesses to provide employee health care coverage.

Women business owners are an economic force. Their economic impact, according to the Center for Women's Business Research, is \$2.86 trillion. If they were their own country, they would have the fifth largest GDP in the world – ahead of France, Germany and Italy.