



WIPP Statement on Healthcare Reform

On behalf of the 49 organizations and over half a million business owners we represent nationwide, we believe that the need for healthcare reform has never been stronger. Small business owners have been calling for reform for many years because healthcare plans have not been affordable or accessible to them. According to a 2009 WIPP member survey, healthcare is the top concern among small business owners, with 72% stating that comprehensive healthcare reform is urgently needed. The cost of inaction is simply too great.

WIPP vigorously supports:

- The creation of a private nationwide insurance purchasing pool accessible to small businesses up to 100 employees. WIPP endorses the creation of SHOP exchanges.
- Tax credits for small businesses that offer healthcare to their employees.
- Insurance market and rating reforms such as the elimination of ratings on pre-existing conditions and health status, and guaranteed issue and renewability.
- An individual mandate for health insurance coverage.
- Inclusion of liability reform language that limits costs related to medical malpractice.

WIPP vigorously opposes:

- An employer mandate that includes small businesses.
- The taxation of employee benefits

We stand behind the healthcare principles contained in the Economic Blueprint – The Women Business Owners’ Platform for Growth including: 1) Increasing access to small and individual insurance markets; 2) Increasing transparency; 3) Establishing an interconnected, nationwide health technology system; 4) Increasing the number of healthcare providers; 5) Promoting healthy employees; and 6) Establishing a healthcare reform commission. Visit www.wipp.org to read the complete Economic Blueprint.