



LOUISIANA CONSUMER HEALTHCARE COALITION

THE VOICE OF HEALTHCARE CONSUMERS

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Consumer Group Praises Passage of Historic Health Reform Bill

Group also Highlights the Five Immediate Benefits of the Bill for Louisiana Families

**Statement of Moriba Karamoko, Director of Louisiana Consumer Healthcare Coalition
regarding passage of *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act***

(BREAUX BRIDGE, LA) – “We applaud the House for passing the historic *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*, which moves us closer to a permanent fix for Louisiana’s broken health care system,” says Moriba Karamoko, Director of the Louisiana Consumer Healthcare Coalition. He goes on to note that, “The passage if this bill is of immediate benefit to people in Louisiana given the fact that within the next six months the bill will:

- Prohibit pre-existing condition exclusions for children;
- Prohibit lifetime benefit caps and annual benefit caps in all health plans;
- Require health plans to cover dependent children until age 26;
- Lower prescription drug expenses for seniors by beginning to close the Medicare part D donut hole and provide 116,000 low and middle-income Louisiana seniors a 50 percent discount on brand-name drugs; and
- Provide 51,000 small businesses with tax credits to cover up to 35 percent of the costs of premium to provide coverage for their employees.

After a year of debate, attention now shifts to state level implementation of health reform. “We are prepared to work closely with state legislators, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, and others to successfully implement health reform in Louisiana,” Karamoko says. “We also have a deep understanding of the need to ensure that the voices of consumers are heard. Therefore, we are pleased that the bill also funds the immediate startup of state-based consumer assistance offices dedicated to answering questions about insurance options, assisting with enrollment and helping consumers navigate the new system,” States Moriba Karamoko.

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About Louisiana Consumer Healthcare Coalition

Louisiana Consumer Healthcare Coalition (LCHC) is a group of organizations committed to realizing a consumer-centered health care system that provides comprehensive, affordable, quality care for everyone, especially the most vulnerable. We work to achieve this through multi-disciplinary, collaborative efforts in public policy, advocacy, education and service to consumers in Louisiana.

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