



**PRESS RELEASE  
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## **Consumer Group Praises Senate Passage of Historic Health Reform Bill**

*Group also Highlights Important Role of Senator Mary Landrieu in Passage of Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*

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

**(BREAUX BRIDGE, LA)** –“Today’s passage of the landmark Senate Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will have a positive impact on the lives of individuals and families in Louisiana for years to come. We are tremendously grateful to our senior Senator Mary Landrieu who voted to make health security a reality for Americans. She realized that failure to act would have put millions of Louisiana families in harm’s way”.

“We especially commend Senate Mary Landrieu for her leadership in offering amendments to this bill to make health insurance more affordable for small business owners in Louisiana”.

“As an organization working to ensure that consumers have a voice in health reform, we believe the Senate bill will benefit consumers in many ways. It will help provide quality affordable coverage by offering strong consumer protections, provide robust tax credits for small businesses, contain health care costs, improve choice and competition among health plans, lower costs of insurance policies, and require greater accountability by health insurance companies”.

“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. We also have a deep understanding of the need to ensure that the voices of consumers are heard. Therefore, we are particularly pleased the Senate bill 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. We hope these important provisions are maintained and enhanced in conference.”

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“Under this bill, over 500,000 low- and moderate-income people in Louisiana will see improvements in their ability to pay for the care they need but that many currently can’t afford. Among the greatest beneficiaries would be middle-class families, many of whom have seen their financial security wiped out by steep premiums, unmanageable out-of-pocket costs and crushing medical debt. The bill also significantly expands Medicaid to include thousands of adults who are currently ineligible in Louisiana”.

“As the process moves forward, we also hope the House and Senate will continue to strengthen affordability”.

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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.