

PA Business Healthcare Report

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Business Owners Speak Out on HB 1660 and SB 300:

Why Publicly-Funded, Privately-Provided Healthcare Is Best for Business in PA

- Higher quality, comprehensive healthcare at less cost
- Saves 25% on administrative overhead for doctors, hospitals, and patients
- Makes business budgeting and investing predictable and stable
- Ends nightmare negotiations with insurance carriers
- Generates strong job growth, starting with medical delivery industries
- Makes PA businesses more competitive in the national and global economies
- Leverages the Commonwealth's buying power to cut prescription drug costs in half
- Shrinks property taxes, auto insurance, and workmen's compensation
- Funded through an annual fair tax that replaces an unfair premium/co-pay/deductible system that far outstrips inflation

"This year, our premiums went up 74%, which our agent thought was a mistake. We have a woman who is terminally ill with cancer, and the insurance company stated this had nothing to do with our increase. No company, large or small, can absorb that kind of cost increase. So, what, drop her coverage? And how do you live with yourself?" Scott Tyson M.D – CEO, Pediatrics South in Pittsburgh, Pa. (60 employees)

"We work with the system that we have, but it is broken, and it seems like single-payer is the way to go. We work very hard to try to insure our employees because we feel that is our obligation. Every year we sit down and look at our health plan. We make choices based on what should we cover; what should we not cover; what should the deductible be; how much should we charge employees when they go the doctor's office. We make all those decisions. Our employees end up just being along for the ride. It's not right, but it's the way it is. It's my obligation to try to protect our plan and get the best, cheapest plan I can for our employees so I can continue to offer health insurance. " Alan Jacobs – President, Isaac's Restaurants in South Central Pa. (700 employees).

"Our insurance rates have more than doubled in the last four years. We are paying 20% over our existing payroll just for health coverage, and at budget time you don't know what to expect. When you've had 25% increases you pretty much have to say we're going to expect it's going to be 35% higher. We are a for-profit organization: we can't really afford to pay that and still make money. Under single-payer we'd save at least \$50,000 which I could use to hire more people. This past year we increased the deductible... and it was very painful for us to do that. If we pass single-payer we're going to attract businesses. There is no manufacturer that won't want to locate in Pennsylvania because you can predict your expenses year over year. You have stable costs. And everybody's in and nobody's out." Charlie Crystle - Owner and CEO, Mission Research, a software firm in Lancaster, Pa. (20 employees)

"I believe it's a moral obligation to provide healthcare for my employees. Six years ago I was paying \$176 a month per employee for their healthcare benefits. Last year it went up to \$577. This year it went up to \$627. They're telling me next year it's going to go up another 20 or 30%, and it's not going to stop. It doesn't make moral sense. It doesn't make political sense. And it doesn't make business sense." Mike Stout – President, Steel Valley Printers of Pittsburgh, Pa. (7 employees)

For more information about why House Bill 1660 and Senate Bill 300 make sense for your business, and how you can help pass these companion bills, contact info@healthcare4allpa.org.

Resources:

- **Employer Health Benefits 2007 Annual Survey – Kaiser Family Foundation**
(<http://www.kff.org/insurance/7672/upload/Summary-of-Findings-EHBS-2007.pdf>)
- **Small Businesses' Premiums Soar After Illness – New York Times, May 5, 2007**
(http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/05/business/05insure.html?_r=1&sq=%20business%20premiums%20soar&st=cs&oref=slogin&scp=1&pagewanted=print)
- **Small businesses expected to see sizeable increases for health care - Pittsburgh Business Times, April 13, 2007** (<http://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/stories/2007/04/16/story6.html?t=printable>)
- **Free corporations from health expenses - The Business Journal of Milwaukee, September 2, 2006**
(http://www.throwtherascalsout.org/2005_09_02_BJM_free_corporations_from_health_expenses.htm)
- **Business Sense, Common Sense and Health Care – Morton Mintz, The Progressive Populist, April 11, 2007** (http://www.throwtherascalsout.org/2005_09_02_BJM_free_corporations_from_health_expenses.htm)
- **Single-Payer: Good for Business – Morton Mintz, The Nation, November 14, 2004**
(http://www.throwtherascalsout.org/2005_09_02_BJM_free_corporations_from_health_expenses.htm)
- **Fewer small firms offer health insurance – USA Today, November 19, 2007**
(http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/insurance/2007-11-19-health-insure_N.htm?csp=DailyBriefing)
- **US health insurance costs rise nearly twice as fast as pay: survey – Agence France Press, September 12, 2007** (http://rawstory.com/news/afp/US_health_insurance_costs_rise_near_09122007.html)

Report Says Pa. healthcare in 'critical condition' – Philadelphia Business Journal, October 1, 2007
(<http://philadelphia.bizjournals.com/philadelphia/stories/2007/10/01/daily41.html>)

For more information about why Single-Payer healthcare makes sense for your business, and to learn more about what you can do, contact info@healthcare4allpa.org