

NJ MAIN STREET ALLIANCE

<http://www.njforhealthcare.org/mainstreet.html>

The NJ Main Street Alliance is a coalition of nearly 300 small business owners, self-employed entrepreneurs, and non-profit organizations who are working towards a comprehensive solution to the state – and the nation’s – health care woes. Since its inception in August 2008, this coalition has been committed to ensuring that small business owners have a voice in the policy debate over health care reform. Through personal stories, surveys and reports – the NJ Main Street Alliance is dedicated to educating the public and New Jersey’s elected officials about the need for a renewed health care system that works for our employees, our families, and our communities.

It is clear that the current health care system is not working for our state’s small businesses. Many of our members are struggling to find quality affordable health care for their employees and themselves. They are forced into impossible choices with no real solutions. Whatever the business, the experiences are the same: exorbitant costs, unpredictable rate increases, coverage denials, and administrative nightmares.

The NJ Main Street Alliance is working to change this broken health care system for the better – organizing our efforts around the following principles:

1. Affordable Costs

It’s not right that small businesses pay more for less in health care. We need affordable, predictable costs we can plan and budget for.

2. Guaranteed Coverage

Everyone should have good health coverage, whether you run a small business or a Fortune 500 company. You shouldn’t have to give up your health care to start a new business or change jobs.

3. Shared Commitment

We can make health care work if everyone pitches in. As small business owners, we’re willing to contribute, but we can’t go it alone. It’s got to be a commitment shared with government and employees.

4. Real Choices

Everyone should have a choice between private and public health insurance plans. If you like what you’ve got, you should have the choice to keep it. For small businesses that don’t have real choices now, offer the choice of a public health insurance plan. This would give us some leverage, encourage competition among insurers to drive down costs, and provide a guaranteed backup.

NJ Main Street Alliance members are willing to pay their fair share to make the health care system work, but it must be affordable and provide quality coverage. We are supportive of a public health insurance plan, a plan that is transparent, creates competition among private insurers, and makes health care accessible to everyone. In accordance with these principles, the NJ Main Street Alliance will work to amplify small business voices to effect meaningful change in health care.

The NJ Main Street Alliance received start up funding from the national Main Street Alliance, a national non-profit network supporting small business health care coalitions in close to a dozen states around the country. As a statewide and national coalition, we are committed to ensuring that members of NJ’s Congressional Delegation honor the concerns of small businesses when making decisions about health care reform in 2009.

For more information, please contact:

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