



PRESS RELEASE

SEANC Contact: Dana Cope
919-833-6436 (office)
919-812-3618 (cell)
dcope@seanc.org

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Representative Larry Kissell: Put Working Families Before Insurance Industry Greed *It's Time to Move Forward – North Carolinians Are Waiting on Health Insurance Reform*

Today, President Barack Obama announced that it's time for Congress to move forward with passing real health insurance reform.

"The president is right," said A.D. Hall, a Department of Transportation employee from Morven, N.C. "It's time to pass real health insurance reform so insurance companies can't get away with denying claims, inflating their profits and hiking rates."

The president's proposal for moving forward guarantees insurance will be more affordable by providing the largest middle class tax cut for health care in history. It puts in place a new competitive health insurance market, giving tens of millions of Americans the same insurance choices that members of Congress will have. Plus, insurance companies will face greater accountability – no more denying claims because of pre-existing conditions.

"Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina has been given a blank check by the State Health Plan and has a monopoly on North Carolina's business," said Dana Cope, executive director of the State Employees Association on North Carolina, SEIU Local 2008. "Health insurance reform will provide needed competition for Big Blue and allow families to have access to affordable health care choices."

Specifically, SEANC is insisting that U.S. Rep. Larry Kissell, a Democrat representing North Carolina's 8th congressional district, support health care reform and place working families before insurance industry greed.

"After more than a year of debate, there's been enough talk. Enough politics. Enough excuses," said Cope. "It's time to for Congressman Kissell to vote for reform. Working families can't wait any longer for health care that works for them."

SEANC has been a leader in North Carolina for health care reform, hosting congressional town hall meetings across the state last year. And on Tuesday, March 9, SEANC plans to send 100 people to Washington, D.C. to protest a meeting of insurance companies and lobbyists (including BCBSNC) who are attempting to block health care reform.

SEANC, SEIU Local 2008 is the South's leading state employees' association 55,000 members strong.

###