



## PRESS RELEASE

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### IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### More Than 200 SEANC Members and NC Activists to Join March 9 Insurance Company Protest in D.C.

**RALEIGH** — On March 9, more than 200 members of the State Employees Association of North Carolina and other health care advocates will board buses to join thousands of activists in Washington, D.C., to protest big insurance and insist that Congress give America real health care reform.

“Insurance companies cannot hold health care reform hostage any longer – it’s a crime,” said SEANC Executive Director Dana Cope, noting that Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on mailers, phone calls and a Web site dedicated to blocking comprehensive health care reform. “The contrast is clear: We’re outside eating Ritz crackers while the insurance big-wigs are holed up in the Ritz-Carlton,” added Cope.

The health insurance lobby, America’s Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) of which BCBSNC is a member, is holding a national conference on March 9 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in D.C. to advance their anti-reform agenda. By confronting AHIP, health care reform advocates will express outrage toward insurance CEOs who make millions by denying health care, hiking premiums and devastating America’s families and businesses.

“I’m going to D.C. to show my support for the president’s health care reform initiatives; it’s urgent, Congress doesn’t need to postpone the vote,” said SEANC member Pamela Francis of Knightdale.

#### Schedule

- 4:30 a.m. SEANC members will meet at the SEANC Central Office, 1621 Midtown Place, Raleigh, to board buses
- 10:30 a.m. More than 3,000 people will gather at Dupont Circle in Washington, D.C.
- 11:00 a.m. A brief program will kick-off the march to the AHIP conference at the Ritz
- 11:45 a.m. Protesters will arrive at the Ritz
- 12:15 p.m. Speeches will spotlight insurance companies’ greed
- 12:35 p.m. Organizational leaders and a group of survivors of insurance company abuses will attempt to confront the insurance company CEOs and AHIP leaders

SEANC is joining Health Care for America Now for the protest. SEANC, SEIU Local 2008 is the South’s leading state employees’ association 55,000 members strong.

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