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Endorse HAC North Carolina-Style Health Reform, Health Policy Council Hearing

HEALTH COMMENTARY AT THE PROGRESSIVE PULSE:

[Testimony on NC Policy Council Bill](#): My thoughts on why bringing hospitals, doctors, insurers, people paying skyrocketing premiums, small businesses, drug companies, advocates, and others together to talk about health care solutions is a good idea.

[Misguided arguments against a health care policy council](#): Why one of the common arguments against a policy council is all wrong.

[Big Tobacco's menthol addiction](#) : Supporting the Congressional Black Caucus.

ENDORSE HAC'S NORTH CAROLINA-STYLE HEALTH CARE

REFORM PLAN: HAC has been putting together a roadmap for health care reform in North Carolina at our meetings over the last year. We take the best ideas from other states, guarantee a choice of public and private affordable health plans, put prevention first, ask for sliding-scale payment of premiums and give NC government a stronger watchdog role in holding down costs and keeping insurance companies under control.

In a few weeks after we completely finalize our plan we'll be releasing it publicly. However, we'd like the support of as many organizations as possible for that release.

If you or your organization would like to take a look at the health plan to see if you could endorse it, please email Adam at adam@ncjustice.org. I'd be happy to send you a copy of what we have put together so far.

HEALTH CARE POLICY COUNCIL HEARING: It's a simple idea – just create a forum for all parties to sit down and come up with a North Carolina-style plan to make sure everyone in our state can afford to buy health coverage. You'd think Representative Verla Insko's bill doing this would sail through the General Assembly where everyone professes to love bringing interests who disagree together to address important issues. I can't tell you how many times I've heard some legislator pontificate about a particular bill in this way: "Well,

the solution you're about to vote on was worked on by all the interested parties, and no one is completely happy with it, but that probably means it's a great compromise, and so we should all vote for it."

Not so with a similar mechanism for health care. Apparently some health industry powers are so worried about just sitting down and talking to one another they are making sure this bill doesn't ever see the light of day after yesterday's hearing. Let's hope that's not the case and that the special interests don't prevail again. At a time when quality, affordable health care is a number-one priority for people in the tough times we are going through in North Carolina, squashing a great idea for getting people to sit down and talk about solutions makes little sense.

- * Adam blogs on state politics and healthcare at [The Progressive Pulse](#).
- * Health Advocacy Video: [HAC on YouTube](#)
- * Looking for past NC Health Reports? Check out the [NC Health Report Archive](#).

* Looking for great analysis of what's happening in Washington regarding health and other policy areas? The respected [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#) can help. Focused on kids? Try the well-known [Georgetown University Center for Children and Families](#) for excellent information. Finally, FamiliesUSA has a [State Expansions Resource Center](#) that shows reform progress across the country.

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