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News Brief

America's Agenda: Health Care for All Statement on Dialogue between President Obama and the House Republican Caucus

Washington, DC (January 29, 2010) Mark Blum, executive director of America's Agenda: Health Care for All, released the following statement regarding President Obama's meeting, today, with Republican Members of the House of Representatives:

The President's dialogue today with House Republicans is a reminder that common ground for reaching agreement on meaningful health reform this year does, in fact, exist.

The President demonstrated, again, his openness to adding core Republican proposals to the final reform package, provided they meet objectives he articulated in his State of the Union address Wednesday night: bring down premiums, bring down the deficit, cover the uninsured, strengthen Medicare for seniors, and stop insurance company abuses. Among the Republican proposals discussed today were medical malpractice tort reform and approaches to expanding interstate purchasing of insurance coverage.

"The President also indicated willingness to review any stray dog and cat provisions in the current House and Senate bills that may not meet reform objectives.

We applaud the President and Members of Congress who today took first steps needed to reach agreement on final health reform legislation this year. We urge the President to continue his engagement in direct discussions with Members of Congress. It is now up to Members on both sides of the aisle to rise to the challenge and complete reform within the framework the President has laid out. The American people deserve no less from their elected representatives.