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## Majority Whip James Clyburn and Wendell Primus Participate in America's Agenda Board Discussion

## Board Adopts Priority Goals for Next Stage of Health Reform

Rep. James Clyburn, the House Majority Whip, joined the Board of America's Agenda: Health Care for All for a robust discussion of the new health care reform law and the next steps ahead to guaranteeing costeffective, high quality health care for all Americans.

America's Agenda President Doug Dority and Board Members expressed great appreciation for Rep. Clyburn's outstanding leadership in achieving passage of landmark health reform legislation in Congress.



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Dr. Wendell Primus, Senior Advisor on Budget and Health to Speaker Nancy Pelosi, also joined in the Board discussion. Board members thanked Wendell for his guidance in development of legislation in the House. "I know first hand how tough it is move legislation like this," commented former House Majority Leader Dick Gephardt. "I don't know how Congress could get its job done without relying on the extensive expertise of staff like Wendell."

"Wendell Primus heard our concerns from the very beginning of the process, as initial legislation was being drafted in the House," said Executive Director Mark Blum. "He understood the perspective of our member unions and businesses on cost reduction and quality improvement, and he took it seriously. We saw that as the legislation moved forward."

Rep. Clyburn thanked America's Agenda for the support of our member unions and businesses throughout the struggle for reform. "You demonstrated that there is a lot of common ground between labor and business on solutions to the health care crisis," said Rep Clyburn. "That was important to the Congress, and it's going to remain important as we move forward.

"The health reform Congress enacted this year is an historic achievement." Rep. Clyburn said. "I understand it's not a complete solution from every point of view, but the new law provide a foundation to build from that Americans have strived to achieve since President Harry Truman called for health insurance reform more than 60 years, ago.

"Remember that civil rights legislation wasn't a finished product, either, back in 1964," Rep. Clyburn reminded America's Agenda board members. "For instance, we had to wait another year to prohibit discriminatory voting practices in the Voting Rights Act. But the 1964 Civil Rights Act gave us a strong foundation to build from - and that's exactly what we did."

"Thank you, especially for the significant work America's Agenda undertook over the past year with members of our Caucus for whom health reform was a very tough vote. Your support is going to remain important as we build public understanding of how much we've achieved for working Americans and their employers through passage of this legislation."

The America's Agenda Board adopted a set of updated priorities for continuing the reform process begun with passage of health insurance reform. These priorities include:

- 1. Undertaking public information campaigns over the next several months in selected states to broaden public understanding of benefits for families and employers in the 2010 health insurance reform law.
- 2. Providing assistance and support to state efforts to assure that state health insurance exchanges fulfill their potential to drive transformation to cost-effective delivery of high-quality health care.
- 3. Support strengthening of primary care delivery by encouraging adoption of team-based care and securing federal resources needed to establish community-based health teams in the states.
- 4. Achieve positive outcomes in federal rule making regarding implementation of the health plan excise tax and other provisions of federal health reform legislation.
- 5. In all of America's Agenda's campaigns and programs, lay the foundation for winning the next stage of federal health reform focusing on reduction in cost growth for high quality care.

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Dr. Wendell Primus and LIUNA General Pres. Terry O'Sullivan confer.

America's Agenda: Health Care for All Mark Blum