



National Association of Health Underwriters

America's Benefits Specialists

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NAHU Applauds President Bush for His Efforts to Empower Americans to Find Better Health Care

(Arlington, VA) -- The National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU) applauds President Bush's leadership in taking this important first step in providing cost information to consumers. Health care transparency will allow consumers to make better health care decisions leading to decreased costs and improved medical care. The executive order allows federal agencies to: increase transparency in pricing, increase transparency in quality, encourage adoption of health Information Technology (IT) standards, and provide options that promote quality and efficiency in health care.

"NAHU members works on a daily basis to help both individuals and employers purchase health insurance coverage," said NAHU EVP and CEO Janet Trautwein.. "NAHU is extremely concerned about how rising health care costs are impacting health insurance coverage in this country. We believe that the advent of a more consumer-directed approach to health insurance coverage is essential to reducing overall health care costs, as it will help curb excessive utilization and claims, and also drive down costs by increasing competition among providers. However, to be fully successful, American consumers need to be fully aware of the cost of the health care that they are purchasing.

"We believe a better system can be realized through Americans having choices and control over their health care decisions – with patients working with doctors to make those decisions," said Trautwein. "The best way to do this is through choice and competition which can only work if consumers have adequate information about the cost and quality of the health care they are consuming. Choice and competition can work in the health care arena as it has in most sectors of our economy by encouraging innovation, new ideas for controlling costs and delivering health care in a more effective way."

The National Association of Health Underwriters represents over 20,000 health insurance agents, brokers, consultants and professionals. Our members serve employers and individual consumers in accessing and purchasing affordable health insurance and related products. For more information, please contact Kelly Loussedes, VP of public relations, at 703-276-3835 or kloussedes@nahu.org or Brandi Travis, manager of communications, at 703-276-3815 or btravis@nahu.org.

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