



National Association of Health Underwriters

America's Benefits Specialists

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NAHU STATEMENT ON CMS NATIONAL HEALTH EXPENDITURE DATA

(Arlington, VA) – Janet Trautwein, CEO of the National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU), made the following statement today in response to new health care cost data released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services:

“While the GDP decreased for the first time since 1949, health care spending increased by a staggering 4.4 percent in 2008, thus driving up the cost of health insurance. Despite private health insurance increasing at the slower rate than general health care expenditures, the cost of public programs increased at a much higher rate.

“Instead of alleviating the financial difficulties caused by the current economic situation, *The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2009* as it stands today will continue to exacerbate the problem by driving up private health insurance costs significantly for millions of Americans families and businesses and disrupt the quality coverage on which millions of Americans rely.

“NAHU has grave concerns that H.R. 3590 will do much more to harm American health care consumers than help them as it is currently structured. We encourage members of Congress to work together on a bipartisan basis to develop an affordable and responsible means of achieving the needed reforms to our nation’s health care delivery system.”

The National Association of Health Underwriters represents more than 100,000 professional health insurance agents and brokers who provide insurance for millions of Americans. For more information, please contact Kelly Loussedes, vice president of public relations at 703-276-3835 or kloussedes@nahu.org.

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