

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 7, 2006

**Contact: Pat Schoeni**

202-638-7151

## **NATION'S LARGEST HEALTH COALITION CONTINUES TO EXPAND AS CONCERN GROWS**

The National Coalition on Health Care has added new members, supporters, and directors as the health care crisis in this country continues to grow.

The impact of rapidly rising health care costs, decreasing coverage, and serious and pervasive quality problems has now created a major, national economic crisis affecting jobs, wage increases, pension viability, business profitability, and global competition. According to a Kaiser Family Foundation poll, more Americans are concerned about being able to pay for health care and health insurance than they are about losing their jobs, paying their rent or mortgage, losing money in the stock market, or being the victim of a terrorist attack.

Awareness of the impact of the health care crisis and support for the options for reform developed by the Coalition have resulted in an increase in organizations and prominent individuals involved in the Coalition's efforts to bring about comprehensive reform of our health care system.

Recent additions to our Board of Directors include:

- W. Todd Bassett, National Commander, The Salvation Army
- George Diehr, Professor of Management, California State University, San Marcos, and Board Member, California Public Employees' Retirement System
- William J. Grize, former President and Chief Executive Officer, Ahold USA, Inc.
- John Seffrin, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer, American Cancer Society

They join current Board members: Robert D. Ray, former Governor of Iowa; Paul G. Rogers, former Member of Congress, Senior Partner, Hogan & Hartson; Henry Simmons, M.D., President, National Coalition on Health Care; Frank Carlucci, Chairman Emeritus, Carlyle Group; Bill Crist, Emeritus Professor of Economics, California State University; John D. McArthur, Dean Emeritus, Harvard Business School; James E. Rogers, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Cinergy Corporation; William Novelli, Chief Executive Officer, AARP; John Sweeney, President, AFL-CIO, and Robert W. Edgar, General Secretary, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA.

New Individual Supporters include:

- The Honorable Thomas Daschle, Former Majority Leader of the United States Senate
- The Honorable Paul H. O'Neill, Former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, Former Chairman of ALCOA
- The Honorable Harris Wofford, Former Senator from Pennsylvania
- Donald M. Berwick, M.D., M.P.P., President and CEO, Institute for Healthcare Improvement
- Steven A. Schroeder, M.D., Distinguished Professor of Health and Health Care, University of California – San Francisco, President Emeritus, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- William C. Richardson, Ph.D., Former President and CEO, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, President Emeritus, Johns Hopkins University

Coalition members include major businesses, and the nation's largest labor, religious, provider, and consumer groups, as well as, insurers, and the nation's largest health and pension funds. Its 90 members employ, represent, or have as congregants over 150 million Americans. Organizations that have recently joined the Coalition include:

- American Water
- California Medical Association
- The Salvation Army
- International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans
- California State Teachers Retirement System
- Progressive National Baptist Convention
- American Dental Education Association
- Visteon
- Group Health Cooperative
- CodeBlueNow!
- American Council on Education
- Association of American Universities
- American Association of Community Colleges
- American Association of State Colleges and Universities
- National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
- Duke University Medical Center

The National Coalition on Health Care is the nation's largest, most broadly based, non-partisan alliance working for comprehensive health system reform. Its Honorary Co-Chairs are former Presidents George Bush, Gerald E. Ford, and

Jimmy Carter. Its Co-Chairs are Robert D. Ray, former Republican Governor of Iowa, and Paul G. Rogers, former Democratic Congressman from Florida.

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Note: Additional information on the Coalition can be found on the website at <http://www.nchc.org>.