

HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA **NOW!**

MEDIA ADVISORY
For May 21, 2009

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NEW REPORT TO DETAIL NEED FOR COMPETITION IN WV HEALTH INSURANCE MARKET

Charleston, WV - On Thursday, May 20th, 2009, West Virginia's Health Care for America Now Campaign will release a new report showing how a lack of real competition in the West Virginian health insurance marketplace is causing skyrocketing premiums for both patients and employers.

The report shows how a handful of private health insurance companies have built a near-monopoly in the state's market, burdening families and businesses with premiums that grew FOUR times faster than wages from 2000 to 2007. West Virginia's two largest health insurers control a 54 percent share of the market. Under a competition rating system used by the U.S. Justice Department, the WV market is "concentrated." Local markets are even worse with 3 out of 4 local markets rated as "highly concentrated."

WHAT: PRESS CONFERENCE CALL To Release WV specific data on extreme insurance market consolidation resulting in higher costs for Business and Individuals with Private Insurance.

WHEN: 2PM on Thur. May 21, 2009 [Report](#) will be available at: www.wvcag.org

CALL IN NUMBER: (800) 444-2801 ACCESS CODE: 8043075

**SPEAKERS: Larry Matheney, WV AFL-CIO;
Elena Bailey, NASW-WV;
Gary Zuckett, WV-CAG;**

EXPERT SPEAKER: Alex Lawson, Health Care Researcher, Institute for America's Future and co-author of the HCAN report.

[Health Care for America Now](#) (HCAN) is a national grassroots campaign of [more than 1000 organizations](#) representing more than 30 million people dedicated to winning quality, affordable health care we all can count on in 2009. [Health Care for America Now](#) and its [principles](#) for reform are supported by **President Obama** and [more than 190 Members of Congress](#).

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