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Press Release

STATEMENT BY FLORIDA AFL-CIO PRESIDENT CINDY HALL ON YESTERDAY'S HOUSE HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL

“Florida’s working families saw real and historic action yesterday in the efforts to fix our broken health care system with the release of the House of Representatives bill, “America’s Affordable Health Choices Act.” We applaud the House Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Education and Labor Committees for their hard work and solid work product. We especially recognize the contributions of Florida Representatives Kendrick Meek and Kathy Castor for their hard work and commitment to Florida’s working families.

The House proposal meets both the goals of Florida’s Labor Movement and those outlined by President Obama. Our ongoing analysis of this groundbreaking legislation confirms that it will control runaway health care costs, offer the people of Florida and the nation real choices and expand access to quality health care. It has a high quality public health insurance plan that provides real choices and real competition for private insurance from day one. It calls on corporations to pay their fair share. Like the President’s proposal, it calls on those who can afford it to contribute to funding health coverage expansion – in the House bill through a modest tax surcharge. It does not ask the American people to pay more for what they already have. In fact, this legislation offers the real promise of improving quality, increasing access and reducing costs, all at the same time.

Florida’s voters spoke clearly in the last election. They want their elected representatives to guarantee quality affordable health care. They want a quality public plan that will provide a real alternative to confusing private plans that profit from denying care and shortchanging coverage. They want everyone to pay their fair share. We urge the rest of Florida’s delegation in the House and Senators Nelson and Martinez to move forward with reform and vigorously resist any attempt to dilute the principles of this bill during the remainder of the legislative process. We call on Congress to act swiftly on health care reform and deliver much needed relief to working families.”

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