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Florida AFL-CIO

Press Release

The Florida AFL-CIO Applauds Florida Representatives who supported this Weekend's Historic Health Care Vote

Vote Shows Who Sides with Working Families and who Continues to Let Insurance Companies Call the Shots

On the heels of an historic Saturday night vote in the House of Representatives for a good, balanced health care reform bill, the Florida AFL-CIO thanks those Florida Representatives who voted for HR 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act. However, far too many of Florida's delegation continue to support the status-quo, controlled by the big insurance companies, that threatens the health of Florida's families.

The legislation which passed Saturday evening by a vote of 220 to 215 would finally bring security and stability to our nation's health care system. Working families would get much needed relief from skyrocketing health care prices by being able to choose between a public option and private for-profit insurance.

The following score card makes it abundantly clear who supports the type of health care policy that our workers, small business owners, retirees and children desperately need and deserve.

Florida AFL-CIO Scorecard

A+ /Sided with Working Families

Democrats: Brown, Corrine, Y; Castor, Y; Grayson, Y; Hastings, Y; Klein, Y; Meek, Y; Wasserman Schultz, Y; Wexler, Y.

F-/ Sided With Insurance Companies

Democrats: Boyd, N; Kosmas, N. **Republicans:** Bilirakis, N; Brown-Waite, Ginny, N; Buchanan, N; Crenshaw, N; Diaz-Balart, L., N; Diaz-Balart, M., N; Mack, N; Mica, N; Miller, N; Posey, N; Putnam, N; Rooney, N; Ros-Lehtinen, N; Stearns, N; Young, N.

"This is an historic victory that moves Florida's working families one step closer to the passage of real health care reform," said Mike Williams, President of the Florida AFL-CIO. "And it was a huge test of who will stand with working families versus the moneyed special interests. While some of Florida's members passed with flying colors by standing up for the people who sent them to Washington, others failed by voting to keep the status quo. Make no mistake: working families will remember who fulfilled the promises they were elected on and they will continue to stand with their Representatives who delivered."

The legislation would also help small businesses access quality, affordable health care with lower rates and stable pricing from year to year. And it would lessen the burden of covering the uninsured by requiring employers to provide health care for their employees or pay into a common fund.

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The House bill is also financed in a responsible way – it is fully paid for and would reduce our nation’s rising deficits. Furthermore, it does not attempt to pay for health care on the backs of middle class working families by increasing taxes on the health care that families are already struggling to pay for.

Once the Senate votes on its own bill, the two bills will be reconciled into final health care reform legislation. Mike Williams said, “This is about creating a health care system that will not only provide the care Floridians deserve, but will make costs more manageable for everyone, strengthen Florida’s businesses and protect our nation’s finances. We need to rebuild America’s economy and its middle-class. Saturday night’s vote is a critically important step in the right direction. The Florida AFL-CIO is driven by the issues not partisanship. We are looking to see who really supports this effort and who wants to keep things the way they are with the rich and powerful manipulating the system for their own benefit at the expense of others. This vote helps us understand who will be partners and who will stand in the way of Florida’s future.”

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