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West Virginians for Affordable Health Care

WVAHC Launches Public Education Campaign on Health Care Reform

Most Americans say they are confused about the new health care reform bill, according to a recent poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation. "There are good reasons why many people are confused," according to Perry Bryant, Executive Director of West Virginians for Affordable Health Care. "This is the most complex public policy that I have dealt with in 30 years. WVAHC is conducting an extensive public education campaign so more people can gain a greater understanding of what is in the reform act, and what is not in the act."

The public education campaign has several components including town meetings and forums scheduled throughout the state. Here's a schedule of the meetings that have been scheduled to date.

- **Parkersburg**, Wednesday, May 12th in the Parkersburg City Council Chambers from 7 to 8:30 PM.
- **Wheeling**, Thursday, May 13th at the West Virginia Northern Community College from 7 to 8:30 PM.
- **Elkins**, Monday, May 17th, Randolph County Court House Annex from 7 to 8:00 PM.
- **Morgantown**, Wednesday, May 19th at South Middle School from 7 to 8:30 PM.
- **Shepherdstown**, Wednesday, May 26th at the Robert C. Byrd Center on Legislative Studies, Shepherd University campus from 7 to 8:30 PM.
- **Beckley**, Thursday, June 17th at the Raleigh County Senior Center at noon.

All Town Meetings are free and open to the public. At the meetings, Bryant will provide an overview of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), which was signed into law by President Obama on March 23, 2010. Following this presentation, there will be a panel discussion, followed by a question and answer period. "People have a lot of questions about the act, how it affects them, and how it will affect West Virginia. We will leave plenty of time for questions and answers," according to Bryant.

The town meetings culminate with the **Health Care Reform Summit** on August 30th and 31st at the Charleston Marriott. This two day conference will have

national speakers representing consumers and physicians with presentations on how payment reform and delivery system reform will impact West Virginia. We will also begin the discussion of how West Virginia implements this historic piece of legislation. Hold the dates and watch for details on our web site, www.wvahc.org.

As part of the public education campaign WVAHC has developed a [two page summary](#) of the PPACA and a [32 page comprehensive review](#) of the Act's most important provisions. These, and other materials, can be accessed at our web site, www.wvahc.org.

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West Virginians for Affordable Health Care
1544 Lee Street E
Charleston, WV 25311

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