

Appleseed This Week

eNewsletter - July 9, 2009



A nonprofit network of 16 public interest justice centers in the U.S. and Mexico, Appleseed is dedicated to building a society in which opportunities are genuine, access to justice is universal and equal, and government advances the public interest.

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New Ways to Support Appleseed!

Appleseed is now a member of two combined

SC Center Hosts Health Care Forums

In collaboration with the South Carolina Health Care Voices coalition, SC Appleseed has begun hosting a series of National Health Care Debate Forums, each designed to educate residents about proposed health care legislation and provide a sounding board for local concerns.

"With more than 700,000 uninsured South Carolinians, including 100,000 children, it's time to fix our country's health care system," said Sue Berkowitz, director of the SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center. "These forums provide an opportunity for South Carolinians who face the realities of being uninsured or underinsured to hear how proposed legislation could affect their ability to obtain safe, quality, and affordable health care."

The first forum, held on July 2 in Rock Hill, featured as the keynote speaker U.S. Representative John Spratt, who discussed the potential local impact of national legislative efforts.

"There is still a feeling in Washington that this is the moment for reform," Spratt said. "There's going to be quite an effort to get this accomplished by the end of the year."

The second session, held Monday in Columbia, was attended by U.S. Representative James Clyburn, who will also be present at the third forum, scheduled for Saturday, July 11 in Charleston. The first two sessions have generated considerable public interest, each attracting between 100 and 150 attendees.

Other coalition members sponsoring the forums include the state chapter of the AARP, the SC Small Business Chamber of Commerce, and South Carolina Fair Share. As reported in [The Rock Hill Herald](#), these forums allow citizens to share their personal experiences with the health care system, and many have expressed frustration at the slow pace of reform efforts.

"Too many uninsured residents are being forced to gamble every day that they won't get sick or injured," said Berkowitz.

**giving campaigns: United
Way of the National
Capital Area (UWNCA)
and the Combined
Federal Campaign (CFC).**

**Both campaigns kick off
in September.**

**Please make a note of the
Appleseed designation
codes below.**

UNWCA: 9639

CFC: 10758

"It's a risk no one should have to take."

With South Carolina's unemployment rate having just reached a record high of 12.1 percent, more families are at risk of being uninsured. In addition, the health care crisis could have a devastating effect on small businesses. Even under best-case economic conditions, employer spending on health insurance premiums could increase by 72 percent over the next decade.

"By doing nothing we are on an unsustainable path for healthcare," said Frank Knapp, president of the Small Business Chamber of Commerce. "We must find solutions for small businesses and its employees."

For more information health care reform initiatives, visit SC Appleseed's website at www.scjustice.org or the Health Care Voices website at www.healthcarevoices.org.