

For Immediate Release

Contact: Victoria Pruett
503-234-1095
vpruett@synergyhq.com

Oregon Small Businesses May 1st Call to Action
Urges Oregon Legislators to Move on Real Healthcare Reform

Portland, OR, April 24, 2009 -- The Oregon Small Business Healthcare Initiative (OSBHI) and Oregon Small Business owners will gather at the Capitol on Friday, May 1, 2009, on healthcare reform legislation to urge legislators to fix the skyrocketing costs of healthcare. The event will be held at the State Capitol in Salem, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, in Hearing Room B-50.

An open discussion will take place with state legislators and leadership on what healthcare reform means for Oregon's small businesses. Consumer advocates, healthcare organizations and policymakers will join the discussion.

"We all agree that healthcare reform is a critical need in Oregon and that small business engagement is vital," said Christine Chin-Ryan, Chair of the OSBHI Steering Committee. "We want to ensure that reform addresses quality of care, preventative care, cost containment and a sustainable revenue source that is progressive and enables small businesses to provide healthcare for their employees, their families and all Oregonians."

The mission of the OSBHI is to mobilize Oregon small businesses to speak with one voice on achieving quality, comprehensive, sustainable healthcare at a reasonable cost for small businesses and all Oregonians.

“Small-business owners need help now, and most of us think the place to start is by fixing our broken healthcare system,” added Chin Ryan.

“Our employees are our best asset and we believe they deserve quality healthcare. Without some sort of government involvement, I doubt that we will be able to afford healthcare for too much longer,” stated Bruce Richmond, Owner and President of Hearth Classics in Sandy, Oregon.

Richmond will be one of several small business owners from diverse business sectors who will speak about their experiences and concerns in working to ensure their employees have continuous health coverage.

If you are interested in attending the OSBHI Small Businesses Go to the Capitol for Healthcare Legislation event on May 1, 2009, or would like further information, please contact the OSBHI by calling or emailing Victoria Pruett at (503) 234-1095 or vp ruett@synergyhq.com.

About OSBHI

Oregon Small Business Healthcare Initiative (OSBHI) is the brainchild initiative of the Healthcare Committee of the Oregon Small Business for Responsible Leadership (OSBRL). The OSBHI Mobilization Project mission is to mobilize Oregon small businesses to speak with one voice to achieve quality, comprehensive, sustainable healthcare at a reasonable cost for small businesses and all Oregonians. The OSBHI was made possible by an Access to Health Care grant from the Northwest Health Foundation (NWHF).

About NWHF

Northwest Health Foundation (NWHF) was founded in 1997 from the net proceeds of the sale of PACC Health Plans and PACC HMO and has awarded more than \$40 million to organizations serving the health needs of the region. It is an independent, charitable foundation committed to advancing, supporting, and promoting the health of the people of Oregon and southwest Washington.

www.nwhf.org

#