

State Representative Peggy Scott

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NEWS RELEASE

Legislators Renew Push for Health Care Freedom

ST. PAUL, September 14, 2009 -- Three state representatives today announced their renewed push for the Health Care Freedom Act, a proposed constitutional amendment protecting freedom of choice in health care. Representatives Tom Emmer (R-Delano), Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan) and Peggy Scott (R-Andover) are demanding that the legislative leadership recognize the people's freedom to make decisions about their own health care.

The representatives introduced versions of the Health Care Freedom Act in previous years, and similar legislation is already in place or moving in such states as Arizona and Michigan. For Minnesotans, The Health Care Freedom Act (HF 171) is as important as ever in 2010. It responds to proposals in Washington that would require employers to provide insurance, mandate individuals carry health insurance, and introduce a government-run health insurance option. Representative Peggy Scott says that a constitutional amendment is an ideal way to protect health care freedom of choice.

"Over the past few months we learned that Minnesotans have very strong opinions about what may happen to their health care. This amendment gives us the chance for a statewide town hall in the form of a ballot question." Scott also pointed to the importance of health care freedom of choice for the business community. "Small businesses and entrepreneurs are the drivers of this economy, and it is their ingenuity that makes our state and our nation strong. It is through freedom and choice, not restrictions and mandates, that they will continue to grow and prosper."

Representative Buesgens said passing the Health Care Freedom Act is also important given one legislator's stated intention of ending the health insurance industry in Minnesota. In an interview with Minnpost.com, Senator John Marty said that his push for a single-payer style health system would "be putting the health insurance industry out of business in Minnesota."

"I was shocked and appalled to hear an elected official proudly proclaim that he wants to do away with an entire industry," said Buesgens. "His admission puts a lie to every promise his party makes about keeping your current coverage and seeing the doctor of your choice. The Health Care Freedom Act will be crucial to preserving our individual freedom to choose the health care that's right for each of us."

As the representatives announce their amendment proposal, they highlight Minnesota's stature as a model of health care innovation and advancement.

"Minnesota is a leader in health care and health care reform-that is why President Obama came here this weekend. By protecting Minnesotans from Washington mandates and DFL-orchestrated government takeovers, our amendment ensures we will continue to pioneer and develop solutions for accessible, affordable health care of the highest quality," Buesgens said.

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