



# Mother & Child Health Coalition

## News Release

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### **Child Health Advocates Tackle Health Reform**

Mother & Child Health Coalition is pleased to welcome Sandy Praeger, insurance commissioner for the State of Kansas and immediate past president of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, to be the keynote presenter at its 2009 Annual Legislative Program.

The Legislative Committee of Mother & Child Health Coalition, a bi-state organization, is convening a meeting on the issue of health reform from national and local perspectives on **Friday, October 23, 2009**, from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m., at the Kauffman Foundation's Conference Center, 4801 Rockhill Rd., Kansas City, MO 64110. The event is free and open to the public.

This is an opportunity for lay people, providers of care, and other professionals to hear experts on the issue of health reform from the bi-state area. Commissioner Praeger will speak on the latest news related to national health reform. She not only chairs the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' Health Insurance and Managed Care Committee, but is also vice chair of the International Insurance Relations Committee. Commissioner Praeger has testified before the U.S. Congress on matters of health insurance and has served as a legislator for the state of Kansas.

Other presenters include:

- Suzanne Wikle, director of health policy for Kansas Action for Children, will speak to the possible effects of national health reform on the state of Kansas;
- Jeremy LaFaver, policy and outreach coordinator for Partnership for Children, will talk about outreach efforts for those children who are eligible for insurance, yet remain uninsured; and
- Amy Blouin, executive director of The Missouri Budget Project, will present on the state of the Missouri budget and how Missouri may strengthen its resources to invest in future healthy outcomes for its people.

A panel discussion with a time for questions will follow the presentations.

For questions related to the event, please contact Paul Cesare, coalition coordinator, at (816) 283-MCHC (6242), ext. 239.

*Every child deserves a healthy start. It is the best gift a community gives its children and itself. Mother & Child Health Coalition works together with community partners to promote wellness and advocate excellence in health care for mothers, children and families.*

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