



LOUISIANA CONSUMER HEALTHCARE COALITION

THE VOICE OF HEALTHCARE CONSUMERS

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Louisiana Consumer Healthcare Coalition Praises Senate for Improving Consumer Friendly Provision of Health Reform Bill

Group also highlights consumer friendly Amendments of the Senate Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Set for Vote by Senate on Monday

Breaux Bridge, LA - "Yesterday, the U.S. Senate moved closer to the finish line of passing landmark health reform legislation that will improve access to quality affordable health care for over 500,000 people in Louisiana", according to Moriba Karamoko, Director of Louisiana Consumer Healthcare Coalition (LCHC). The bill the Senate is set to vote on between 1:00 am and 7:00 am on Monday, December 21 will incorporate several important improvements offered on yesterday.

Karamoko notes that, patients and health care consumers will directly benefit from several important provisions to be included in the bill:

- All hospitals will be required to publish a list of the hospital's standard charges for items and services it provides. This will make comparison shopping easier for Louisiana consumer;
- Consumers with group health plans will have greater control over choice of primary care provider; and
- The State of Louisiana will receive financial incentives to offer more home and community based services as long-term care alternatives to nursing homes. Long-term care patients in Louisiana have a demonstrated desire for home and community based services instead of nursing.

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“As a state consumer healthcare advocacy organization actively working to ensure consumers have a strong voice in improving America’s health care system, we are very pleased 60 Senators have pledged their support for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. We especially thank Senator Landrieu for hearing the concerns of consumers from across Louisiana and for pledging to vote for this important process to move forward”, Karamoko says.

Louisiana Consumer Healthcare Coalition (LCHC) is a group of organizations committed to realizing a consumer-centered health care system that provides comprehensive, affordable, quality care for everyone, especially the most vulnerable. We work to achieve this through multi-disciplinary, collaborative efforts in public policy, advocacy, education and service to consumers in Louisiana.