



CONTACT

Kip Horstmann
888-726-4276
info@healthcaresharing.org

September 10, 2009
For immediate release

Congress should do health care reform properly now

PEORIA, IL—Health care reform is too important to rush, James Lansberry said Thursday.

During his address to Congress and the nation Wednesday, President Barack Obama said some of his proposals would be implemented in four years, which, he said, “will give us time to do it right.”

“Let’s take the time to do it properly before a bill is passed, not after,” said Lansberry, vice president of Samaritan Ministries International.

Caution is key in changing the structure of the nation’s health care system, he said, especially when so few specifics were given by the president.

“Many Americans were expecting details on how the health care bill will work,” Lansberry said. “What we heard instead were the same broad statements the president has been making for months on health reform.

“While reform is absolutely necessary, America needs patient-centered reform to replace our employer-centered system, and the reforms before Congress right now will not accomplish that ‘as-is.’ Congress needs to slow down and consider how the patients, not the stakeholders, are going to be affected by their reforms. Health care reform is too important to rush through and, if the reform ideas are sound, both bipartisan and public support can be achieved over time. Reform needs to protect patient-centered innovations that are already in the picture and encourage new patient-centered innovations by providing fertile ground for their growth.”

Lansberry also said that a congressman’s outburst at President Obama during the speech was out of line.

“Congressman Joe Wilson’s lack of decorum during the president’s speech was improper, and he was right to issue a quick apology to the president,” Lansberry said.

Samaritan Ministries is a health care needs-sharing organization founded in 1994. It includes 13,500 member households in all 50 states and around the world. For more information about SMI or to contact James Lansberry, call 1-888-726-4276, send e-mail to kiphorstmann@smchcn.net or info@healthcaresharing.org, or view www.samaritanministries.org.

###