



# National Association of Health Underwriters

*America's Benefits Specialists*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 23, 2009

Contact: Kelly Loussedes, vice president of public relations  
(703) 276-3835 or [kloussedes@nahu.org](mailto:kloussedes@nahu.org)

## **Economic Recovery Legislation Will Jumpstart Economy Increasing Access to Quality, Affordable Health Care**

(Arlington, VA)—Janet Trautwein, CEO of the National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU), issued the following statement on the health care provisions contained in the Economic Recovery Legislation that was approved by the House Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce Committees yesterday:

“NAHU applauds the swift action of Congress for addressing our nation’s economic crisis and crafting legislation that will provide assistance to help unemployed workers maintain their health coverage and strengthen our health information technology in order to reduce health care costs and improve the overall quality of patient care.

“NAHU is particularly pleased that important health provisions have been included in the legislation that will provide immediate assistance to millions of Americans. The legislation provides federal funding for COBRA to help individuals who lose their jobs maintain access to employer-sponsored health insurance under COBRA. COBRA payments may be too expensive for unemployed workers, and a premium subsidy will help those individuals maintain coverage during a very difficult time.

“The use of cutting edge technology and electronic medical records will substantially reduce administrative costs, prevent medical mistakes and help save billions of dollars each year. NAHU fully supports establishing standards, provider payment incentives and privacy protections to encourage the widespread adoption of electronic medical records.

“We are very pleased with the serious deliberation members of Congress have given to the needs of Americans who are facing financial distress and we believe that these health care provisions will help stimulate the economy in the short run and lay the ground work for long term economic growth.”

The National Association of Health Underwriters represents more than 20,000 professional health insurance agents and brokers who provide insurance for millions of Americans. NAHU is headquartered in Arlington, VA. For more information, visit our website at [www.nahu.org](http://www.nahu.org).

###