



WIPP Statement on Healthcare Reform

On behalf of the 49 organizations and over half a million business owners we represent nationwide, we believe that the need for healthcare reform has never been stronger. Small business owners have been calling for reform for many years because healthcare plans have not been affordable or accessible to them.

Our Economic Blueprint maintains that at the heart of reform for women owned businesses is the establishment of a nationwide purchasing pool. We endorse components of a bill that was introduced by Senators Durbin, Lincoln, and Snowe, S. 979, the SHOP Act. We wholeheartedly agree with state based exchange programs but believe that critical to their success is the inclusion of private nationwide plans for businesses that have 100 employees or less. In addition, we support a simplified enrollment process, the utilization of small business organizations, and a web portal to assist small businesses in making healthcare benefit decisions. We believe that any reform proposal should include tax credits for small businesses who offer healthcare to their employees. Further, we support an individual requirement for coverage but not an employer mandate for small businesses as we cannot be certain that reform will give us the lower rates we need to offer insurance.

WIPP is opposed to taxation of employees health benefits because it places a further burden on those who work for small businesses. Although there are suggestions that placing a cap on the ability to deduct premiums could create a downward pressure on premiums, we are unwilling to take that risk.

We stand behind the healthcare principles contained in the Economic Blueprint – The Women’s Business Owners’ Platform for Growth. Click [here](#) to read the healthcare principles; click [here](#) to read the complete Economic Blueprint.