



Champaign County Health Care Consumers

44 East Main Street, Suite #208 • Champaign, IL 61820

Phone= (217) 352-6533 Email= cchcc@healthcareconsumers.org

Web=www.healthcareconsumers.org

Grassroots organizing for health care justice and access since 1977.

Media Advisory

June 29, 2007

Contact: Claudia Lennhoff

cell phone: (217) 390-4531

Local patients speak out:

Health Care Horror Stories not just in Michael Moore's film *SiCKO*

Group calls for changes in local health care policy based on national report detailing the failure of health insurance and Moore's new film.

On Friday, June 29, 2007 at 2 p.m., the Champaign County Health Care Consumers (CCHCC) newly formed Health Care Access Task Force will hold a press conference to discuss the much-anticipated Michael Moore film, *SiCKO*, and to provide consumer testimony that shows that health care horror stories requiring extreme intervention are not limited to Moore's film, but are all too common in Champaign County. Following the press conference, CCHCC will take a group of 25 people to the film.

In addition to discussing the consumers' "sicko" experiences with local health care providers and health insurance companies, CCHCC staff will discuss the recently released report from Boston based The Access Project, titled, "The Illusion of Coverage: How Health Insurance Fails People When They Get Sick." The report includes examples of local consumers' experiences, and makes important recommendations for the reform of health insurance. Local experiences, the report, and Moore's film all illustrate the fact that consumers need protection from their health insurance plans and from harmful policies of health care providers.

The group will talk about how all too often, because of the "product failures" of health insurance, overlaid upon aggressive and harmful debt collection policies of our local Clinics, even insured consumers in our community share the same devastating problems of access to health care as those who are uninsured or who have Medicaid and are being denied care. The group will discuss its efforts to reform the local Clinics' policies as well as its recommendations for local and state policy reforms involving health insurance.

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| WHO: | Champaign County Health Care Consumers Health Care Access Task Force, and affected consumers |
| WHAT: | Press conference featuring consumers' experiences with "sicko" health care |
| WHY: | Champaign County is facing local health care access crisis |
| WHEN: | Friday, June 29, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. |
| WHERE: | CCHCC office, 44 E. Main Street, Suite 208. Champaign, IL |
| VISUALS and MATERIALS: | Posters, national report by The Access Project, health care horror stories from local patients, and local recommendations |

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