

Reform Matters: Making Real Progress for Women and Health Care

CONFERENCE CALL AGENDA **Hosted by the National Women's Law Center** **March 13, 2008** **(2nd Thursday of each Month)** **1pm EST**

1. Welcome & Introduction

Lisa Codispoti, National Women's Law Center

2. "Spotlight." What can we learn from past and current efforts

- a. Individual mandates in health reform: what can we learn from Massachusetts?

*Lisa Kaplan Howe, Esq., Consumer Health Policy Coordinator &
Fawn Phelps, Director of Policy, Health Care for All Massachusetts*

As a component of some health reform proposals, an individual mandate is a requirement that all individuals obtain health insurance or face a penalty unless otherwise exempt (ie: due to affordability). To date, Massachusetts is the only state to have adopted an individual mandate in their health reform plan. The question of whether to include an individual mandate in health reform has been the subject of recent debate – both at the state (ie: California and Colorado) and federal levels among the Presidential candidates. Health care advocates from Massachusetts will discuss the individual mandate, and some early lessons about the role of individual mandates in health reform.

- b. Consumer directed health plans and health savings accounts: What we can learn from the "Healthy Indiana Plan" about how not to expand public coverage

Judy Solomon, Center on Budget & Policy Priorities

Indiana is the first state to receive federal approval to use consumer directed health plans (also known as health savings accounts) to try to expand health coverage to low-income adults who are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid. Other states and some candidates have proposed an expanded role for health savings accounts in health reform. Learn about HIP, the early concerns about this plan, and whether this will really expand access to health care for the uninsured.

3. Updates, announcements, future calls:

- April 10, 2008 1pm EST
- May 8, 2008 1pm EST

To register for conference calls: <http://action.nwlc.org/healthcarereform>

To suggest future agenda topics, please contact Lisa Codispoti, at 202-588-5180 or lcodispoti@nwlc.org