

Arkansans Give Advise On Health Care Reform

Arkansans from all around the state gathered at the Statehouse Convention center in Little Rock Saturday to talk health care reform..

In real time they're casting their votes for the biggest problems in health care. Results show, they want more affordable and fair health care.

"I don't think it's reasonable for any person in the United States to now have health insurance. I think it's unfair," says Greg Spinks.

Questions being discussed include what type of health care should be provided, how should it be delivered and financed and what trade-offs will Americans tolerate to provide affordable, high quality health care for everyone.

"It doesn't seem to matter what state we're in whether we're in a large city or small community like Fargo, North Dakota, the people have the same problems, the same concerns: health care is too expensive or they don't have it," says Deb Stehr.

Stehr is traveling across the country to workshops like this. She's with the Citizens' Health Care Working Group which will take all of the results and present them to Congress and eventually President Bush.

Stehr has a personal interest in being involved with the survey. "My family doesn't have health insurance. I'm self employed as a full time car giver for my 23-year-old son who has Cerebral Palsy and is in a wheelchair."

She's not the only one with health care concerns. Nearly everyone in the room has their own reason for being there.

Pine Bluff resident Larnell Davis says, "I think access is one of the larger issues. That's particularly true in rural areas and areas where there are not a sufficient number of health care providers."

"My big interest is in trying to find some workable, affordable, accessible solution on the part of our health care providers for all people," says North Little Rock resident George Peters.



Lynn Carver of Springdale says, "We have a lack of primary care physicians, so we have a lack of access to health care. For example, you may wait two to three months to get an appointment that is not something emergency based care."

These Arkansans may not have all the answers when it comes to fixing healthcare in the U.S, but their ideas may get passed on to lawmakers in Washington -- meaning in a small way they're making a difference for all Americans in need of health care.

The input meeting is part of a congressional mandate.

For more information on the program or to give your input on health care, click on the link to the right of this story.

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