



CONTACT

Kip Horstmann

888-726-4276

info@healthcaresharing.org

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Employer health insurance mandate bad for jobs

Requiring employers to provide health insurance for their employees will hurt small businesses, says James Lansberry, vice president of Samaritan Ministries International.

Several health care proposals being considered in Congress include such a mandate. But, Lansberry says, forcing businesses to provide health insurance will have a negative effect on the economy.

“An employer mandate will mean jobs lost, and those jobs will be lost in small, local businesses that we need to see thrive,” Lansberry says. “Small businesses are the strength of our economy, especially in the local area. About half of all workers, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, are employed by small businesses. And a mandate for employers means more cost of doing business, which hurts the smallest members of the business community the most.

“If Congress is serious about preventing unemployment rates from rising higher, it needs to pay careful attention to the crippling costs of adding regulations like an employer mandate and how that will affect small businesses.”

Samaritan Ministries is a health care needs-sharing organization founded in 1994. It includes 13,500 member households in all 50 states and around the world. For more information about SMI or to contact James Lansberry, call 1-888-726-4276, send e-mail to jlansberry@smchn.net or info@healthcaresharing.org, or view www.samaritanministries.org.

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For interviews, contact Kip Horstmann at (888) 726-4276 or info@healthcaresharing.org.