

Dear Friends,



This week I had the opportunity to meet with a group of Floridians concerned about the high cost of health insurance. They are just a few of the 3.8 million Floridians who are uninsured, and therefore, do not have access to health care. I heard from business owners who have been unable to afford health insurance for themselves and their 12 employees.

I heard from a couple with pre-existing conditions that insurers do not cover. Another fellow Floridian pays \$670 each month for insurance and is thinking about dropping it because of the high cost.

I believe it is time for us to help uninsured Floridians. Moving through the legislative process right now is Senate Bill 2534, which would allow state government to negotiate with health insurers to develop affordable health insurance coverage for our uninsured fellow Floridians. Under the plan, private health insurers have indicated a willingness to provide benefit packages for as low as possibly \$100 per month.



I believe we can make affordable health coverage available to Florida's uninsured – and do it at very low cost to the state. I encourage you to contact your legislators and let them know that we need to provide affordable health care coverage to uninsured Floridians – particularly during these challenging economic times.

Thank you very much and may God continue to bless our great Florida.

Charlie Crist

Photo Captions

Top left: Governor Crist (right) listens to Stephanie and her husband Jeff from Marianna as they discuss their challenges with purchasing health insurance.

Middle right: Governor Crist visits Lee Memorial Hospital to discuss his plan to provide affordable health insurance for uninsured Floridians.

Bottom left: Governor Crist (right) visits Lee Memorial Hospital to learn more about health care services provided through the hospital's trauma center and emergency room.