

Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of the legislative session, I am optimistic we will have legislation in place that will allow greater access to affordable health care for Florida's nearly 4 million uninsured. The number of uninsured individuals in Florida is a tragedy we can avoid. Taking care of Florida's most vulnerable has never been more important than in these tough economic times.

This week, I met with health insurance providers who have expressed their great interest in negotiating with the state to meet the needs of Florida's uninsured citizens. Insurers have indicated affordable health insurance coverage may cost approximately \$150 per month or less.



The coverage would be available to uninsured Floridians ages 19 to 64. And most importantly, our *Cover Florida* plan will not cost you, the taxpayers, a dime.

I applaud the health insurance companies for their willingness to step forward to increase access to health care for the people of Florida. I look forward to seeing the affordable benefits packages that insurers will develop to help provide affordable, quality choices for the people of our state.



This week we also celebrated Earth Day. When we look at the beauty of our state, it is clear that our precious environment is something to safeguard. That is why I have made environmental protection a top priority for my administration. Each of us can take small steps in our daily lives to help preserve our environment – and protect our economy.

Thank you and may God continue to bless our beautiful Florida.

*Charlie Crist*

#### Photo Captions

**Top Right:** Governor Crist is joined by representatives of Florida's health insurance industry who have expressed interest in competing for the opportunity to provide affordable coverage for Florida's 3.8 million uninsured individuals through the Governor's *Cover Florida* plan. Health insurers supporting the *Cover Florida* plan represent more than 93 percent of Florida's small group insurance market.

***Bottom Left:*** In celebration of Earth Day, Governor Crist plants a tree at the Governor's Mansion with a group of Girl Scouts who earned the Serve to Preserve Scout Award announced by the Governor in February. The Serve to Preserve Scout Award program encourages scouts to earn an award insignia by completing educational activities about Florida's natural environment.