



HEALTHWELL  
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## News Release

### AMERICANS PAYING THE PRICE FOR HEALTH CARE

*Congressional Subcommittee on Health hears about problems faced by Americans who cannot afford the health care they need*

**Gaithersburg, MD (April 25, 2007)** – Today at the Capitol, members of the U.S. House of Representatives Commerce and Energy Committee’s Subcommittee on Health learned of the drastic choices un- and under-insured Americans face each day.

David L. Knowlton, President & CEO of the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute and a HealthWell Board Member, addressed the Committee as part of panels including think tank and academic policy analysts, a former U.S. Senator, and benefits administrators from labor and private industry. Knowlton laid out the problems of the un- and under-insured, and discussed the efforts of his Institute to develop solutions.

Knowlton described in his testimony the problems faced by those who cannot afford the out-of-pocket health care expenses for treatment and some of the drastic measures they employ as they attempt to cope: taking only half of a prescribed drug dose so that their medicine will last longer, sharing prescriptions with friends and relatives, and skipping doses until they can afford a refill.

“There are Americans who have been forced to declare bankruptcy or sell their homes to pay for medical care,” Knowlton told the Committee. “[They] play a high-stakes guessing game when they choose which of their several prescriptions they can afford to purchase.”

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*Since 2003, the HealthWell Foundation has helped more than 30,000 patients with serious and chronic conditions meet their cost-sharing obligations for treatment. HealthWell is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit association that provides financial assistance to cover the cost of prescription drug coinsurance, co-payments and deductibles, health insurance premiums, and other selected out-of-pocket healthcare costs. The Foundation considers individual financial, medical and insurance situations when determining assistance eligibility. For more information, please visit [www.healthwellfoundation.org](http://www.healthwellfoundation.org).*