



HEALTHWELL
FOUNDATION®

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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.