



For Immediate Release

June 13, 2011

MID Town Hall Meetings Let Mississippians Have Voice On Health Exchanges

Jackson, MS-The Mississippi Insurance Department will be travelling the state in upcoming weeks seeking public input on a health insurance exchange from business owners and employers.

In March of 2010 the U.S. Congress passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act mandating the establishment of a health insurance exchange in each state by 2014.

A health insurance exchange is a marketplace where individuals and businesses can compare and shop for health insurance. States that do not create a health insurance exchange by 2014 will be forced to adopt a federally-run health insurance exchange. Mississippi has received positive national press for its decision to create an exchange tailored to the unique health needs of the state.

In Mississippi, health care is an economic issue as well as a household concern. In 2010, 18 percent of Mississippians were uninsured and the state ranked first in adult obesity, heart disease deaths and adults reporting no physical activity in the past month.

Sick and injured employees can cost Mississippi businesses thousands of dollars in lost productivity each month. A well-structured health insurance exchange can help resolve these issues, which will ultimately save Mississippi businesses time and money.

To ensure the exchange is best suited to meet the needs of Mississippians, the Mississippi Insurance Department is holding town hall meetings in the following locations on the listed dates to discuss possible solutions and what small businesses are saying based upon a statewide survey. For more information consumers may follow the Department on Twitter @MSInsuranceDept.

SCHEDULE

MONDAY, June 20

8:30 – 9:30 AM Meridian Riley Center

5:30 – 6:30 PM Starkville MSU Hunter Henry Center

TUESDAY, June 21

8:30 – 9:30 AM Tupelo BancorpSouth Conference Center

12:30 – 1:30 PM Olive Branch Whispering Woods Conference Center

5:30 – 6:30 PM Oxford UM Triplett Alumni Center, Butler Auditorium

WEDNESDAY, June 22

8:30 – 9:30 AM Clarksdale Coahoma CC, Pinnacle Building

12:30 – 1:30 PM Cleveland Delta State University Jobe Auditorium

5:30 – 6:30 PM Greenville Washington Co. Extension Office Auditorium

THURSDAY, June 23

8:30 – 9:30 AM Jackson Hilton Hotel Jackson

12:30 – 1:30 PM Pearl Hinds CC-Rankin Campus, Muse Center

5:30 – 6:30 PM Clinton South Pointe Business Park

FRIDAY, June 24

8:30 – 9:30 AM Hattiesburg Lake Terrace Convention Center

12:00 – 1:00 PM Gulfport MGCCC-Jefferson Davis Campus, Arena Theater

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