

May 22, 2003

Organizations and Public Officials Opposed to Federal AHP Legislation

More than **470** national and local organizations have joined in opposing federal legislation that would allow Association Health Plans (AHPs) to operate without state oversight. Concerns of the organizations are expressed in the many letters they are sending to Congress:

"The provisions in H.R. 660 that exempt AHPs from state regulation would be a disaster for people with diabetes." -- **American Diabetes Association**

"By removing coverage for cost-effective benefits such as well-child care, the AHPs created by H.R. 660 could drive up the cost of health care." -- **American Nurses Association**

"Elimination of the state role and replacement with weak federal oversight is a bad deal for small businesses and for consumers." -- **State Attorneys General**

"This legislation would seriously undermine access to affordable health care for Latino small business owners and their workers." -- **National Council of La Raza**

"AHPs would be free to selectively market to healthy groups by selling stripped down benefit packages that exclude benefits now required by the states." -- **National Governors Association**

"Our understanding of the current AHP proposals before Congress leaves us with concerns that these plans would actually break up the large pools of small employers now required under state law, which would raise costs for many groups, possibly adding to the already high number of uninsured in Oklahoma." -- **Tulsa Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce**

The following are just a few examples from the long and growing list (attached):

Consumer Organizations: National Partnership for Women & Families; American Diabetes Association; Consumers Union; Families USA

State Officials: National Governors Association; Democratic Governors Association; Republican Governors Association; 41 Attorneys General; National Association of Insurance Commissioners

Small Business Organizations: National Small Business United; Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE); Indiana Manufacturers Association; New Hampshire Business Council

Local Chambers of Commerce: 16 Major Metropolitan Chambers Representing Thousands of Local Chambers of Commerce, including Oklahoma State, Washington State, and Denver

Local Farm Bureaus: Mississippi Farm Bureau; Tennessee Farm Bureau – Rural Tennessee Health; Virginia Farm Bureau

Provider/Physician Organizations: American Academy of Pediatrics; American Nurses Association; American Optometric Association; American Psychological Association, American Chiropractic Association; National Mental Health Association; National Association of Social Workers

Unions: AFL-CIO; AFSCME; American Federation of Teachers

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Over 470 Organizations Have Expressed Opposition:

State Officials:

- National Governors Association
- Republican Governors Association
- Democratic Governors Association
- Attorneys General Representing 41 States*
- National Association of Insurance Commissioners
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- National Conference of Insurance Legislators
- Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments

Chambers of Commerce:

- Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Boston
- Cherry Creek Chamber (Colorado)
- Cleveland (COSE)
- Denver Metro
- Detroit
- Draper Chamber of Commerce (Utah)
- Florence, Colorado
- Greater Akron Chamber (Ohio)
- Greater Columbus Chamber (Ohio)
- Greater Manchester, New Hampshire
- Greater Seattle
- Heber Valley Economic Development (Utah)
- Lansing Regional Chamber (Michigan)
- Metro Jackson, Mississippi
- Missouri
- New Hampshire Business and Industry Association
- Northern Ohio
- Oklahoma City
- Oklahoma State
- Palisade Chamber (Colorado)
- Philadelphia
- North Park Chamber (Colorado)
- Salem Economic Development (Utah)
- Springville Economic Development (Utah)
- Tulsa, Oklahoma
- Washington State (Association of Washington Business)

* AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MN, MS, MO, MT, NV, NH, NJ, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SD, TN, UT, VT, USVI, VA, WA, WV, WI

Farm Bureaus:

- Mississippi Farm Bureau
- Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation – Tennessee Rural Health
- Utah Farm Bureau Federation
- Virginia Farm Bureau

Small Business Associations:

- Arizona Small Business Association
- Indiana Association of Community and Economic Development
- Indiana Manufacturers' Association
- Ohio/Kentucky Concrete Pavement Association
- Mountain States Lumber and Building Materials Dealers Association (CO, UT)
- National Small Business United (Represents over 16 associations)
- New Hampshire Business Council
- New Hampshire High Tech Council
- Professional Musicians Of Arizona

Labor Unions:

- AFL-CIO - American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations
With additional letters from:
 - Arkansas Chapter
 - Indiana Chapter
 - Louisiana Chapter
 - Maine Chapter
 - Montana Chapter
 - New Mexico Chapter
 - Oregon Chapter
 - Rhode Island Chapter
 - Tennessee Chapter
 - Utah Chapter
 - Washington State Labor Council
- AFSCME - American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
With additional letters from:
 - Louisiana Chapter
 - New Mexico Chapter
 - Rhode Island Council 94
- American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
With additional letters from:
 - Louisiana Chapter
 - Utah Chapter
- Cement Masons Local 577 (Colorado)
- IBEW - Oregon
- International Union, United Auto Workers (UAW)
 - Indiana UAW
- Laborers' International Union – Local 149 – Aurora, Illinois
- Montana Progressive Labor Caucus
- National Education Association – Rhode Island Chapter
- Providence (Rhode Island) Central Federation of Labor
- Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
With additional letters from:
 - Arkansas Chapter

- Ohio, District 1199
- Washington Chapter
- Teamsters' 190 – Montana
- United Food and Commercial Workers Union – Washington
- Washington State Labor Council

Consumer/Advocacy Groups:

National Groups

- Alliance for Children and Families
- American Association of Pastoral Counselors
- American Association of People with Disabilities
- American Congress of Community Supports and Employment Services
- American Corn Growers Association
- American Diabetes Association – With additional letters from:
 - Central Ohio
 - New Mexico chapter
 - Oregon Chapter
 - Utah Chapter
 - Seattle, Washington
- American Family Foundation
- American Homeowners Grassroots Alliance
- Americans for a Balanced Budget
- Anxiety Disorders Association of America
- Association for the Advancement of Psychology
- Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
- Center on Disability and Health
- Child Welfare League of America
- Children & Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- Coalition Against Insurance Fraud
- Consumer Federation of America
- Consumers Union
- Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
- Families USA
- Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
- Friends Committee on National Legislation
- International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium
- League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
- Maternal and Child Health Coalition for Healthy Families
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill – With additional letters from:
 - Arkansas Chapter
 - Louisiana
 - Maine Chapter
 - Nebraska Chapter
 - New Hampshire
 - North Carolina
- National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
- National Association for Rural Mental Health
- National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders
- National Association of Farmer Elected Committees
- National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems
- National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare

- National Council of La Raza
- National Foundation for Depressive Illness
- National Mental Health Association – With additional letters from:
 - Colorado Chapter
 - Franklin County (Ohio)
 - Illinois Chapter
 - Indiana Chapter
 - Louisiana Chapter
 - Miami County (Ohio)
 - Montana Chapter
 - New Mexico Chapter
 - North Carolina
 - Utah Chapter
- National Partnership for Women & Families
- National Patient Advocate Foundation
- Research Institute for Independent Living
- Suicide Prevention Action Network
- Tourette Syndrome Association
- United Cerebral Palsy Association
- USAction
- Women Involved in Farm Economics

Local Groups

- AIDS Project Rhode Island
- AIDS Response Seacoast – New Hampshire
- ARC of Colorado
- ARC of Indiana
- ARC of Norfolk, Nebraska
- ARC of Ohio
- ARC of Utah
- Access Utah Network
- Adoption Options (Colorado)
- Allies With Families (Utah)
- American Cancer Society – Montana Chapter
- Arizona Citizen Action
- Autism Society of Nebraska
- Bethpage Omaha
- Best Buddies International- Indiana Chapter
- Big Brother and Big Sister - Illinois
- Brain Injury Association of Colorado
- Buckeye Art Therapy Association of Ohio
- Campaign for Better Health Care (Illinois)
- Cancer World (Oregon)
- Catholic Charities of Colorado
- Catholic Charities of Colorado Springs
- Catholic Charities of Omaha, Nebraska
- Catholic Charities Pueblo (Colorado)
- Catholic Conference of Kentucky
- Catholic Conference of Minnesota
- Central Ohio Diabetes Association
- Centro Legal (Minnesota Minority Support Group)

- Child Connect (Nebraska)
- Children's' Diabetes Foundation - Denver Chapter
- Citizen Action of Illinois
- Citizen Action of New York
- Coalition for Accountable Government (Utah)
- Colorado Classified School Employees Association
- Colorado Forum on Community
- Colorado Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
- Colorado Women's Agenda
- Community Connection (Utah)
- Community Connections (Nebraska)
- Community Harvest Food Bank of Fort Wayne, Indiana
- Community Humanitarian Resource Center (Nebraska)
- Concerned Christian Americans - Illinois
- Connecticut Citizen Action Group
- Damien Center – Indiana
- Day At A Time Club (Colorado)
- Depression and Bi-Polar Support Alliance of Ohio
- Denver, Adams and Arapahoe County (CO) CARES
- Eagle Forum (Illinois)
- El Comite - Colorado
- EMPOWER Colorado
- Family Counseling Service (Illinois)
- Family Ties Adoption Center of Colorado
- Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health – Colorado
- Gathering Place (Nebraska)
- Granite State Independent Living Foundation
- Health Action New Mexico
- Health Care for All (Massachusetts)
- Health Law Advocates (Massachusetts)
- Helena Indian Alliance – Montana
- Hispanic Community Center (Nebraska)
- Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health
- Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging
- Indiana Coalition on Housing and Homeless Issues
- Individual and Family Counseling – Illinois
- Iowa Christian Coalition
- Iowa Citizen Action Network
- Jewish Community Relations Council – Indiana
- Kentuckians for Health Care Reform
- Kentucky Catholic Charities and Diocese
- Kentucky Minority Farmers Association
- Louisiana Maternal and Children's Health Coalition
- Maine Consumers for Affordable Healthcare
- Maine Women's Lobby
- Maine Women's Policy Center
- Marshalltown Cancer Resource Center (Iowa)
- Maternal and Children's Health Coalition (Louisiana)
- Mental Health Care Associates (Nebraska)
- Mental Health Consumer Advocates of Rhode Island
- Minnesota Catholic Conference

- Minnesota Lawsuit Abuse Watch (M-LAW)
- Minnesota State Council on Disability
- Montana Coalition for Competitive Choices
- Montana Council for Families
- Montana Peoples Action
- Montana Senior Citizens Association
- Multiple Sclerosis Society of Indiana
- Mutual Ground - Illinois
- National Barter and Commodity Association (Formerly the Colorado Citizens for an Alternative Tax System)
- Navajo County Arizona Special Public Health District
- Nebraska Arthritis Foundation
- Nebraska Tax Research Council
- Nebraskans for Equal Taxation
- New Mexico Advocates for Children and Families
- New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition
- New Hampshire Coalition of State Taxpayers
- New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Women
- Noble/ARC of Greater Indianapolis
- Ocean State Action – Rhode Island
- Ohio AIDS Coalition
- Ohio Advocates for Mental Health
- Ohio Citizen Advocates for Chemical Dependency, Prevention and Treatment
- Ohioans for Diabetes Control
- Planned Parenthood of Mid/East Tennessee
- Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
- People Living Through Cancer – New Mexico
- Protectmontanakids.org
- Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
- Rhode Island Kids Count
- Safe Kids – Safe Communities – Montana
- Small Business Lobby (Virginia)
- Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndrome (Utah)
- United Cerebral Palsy Association – Nebraska
- Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- Victim Assistance Team of Grand County Colorado
- Washington Citizen Action
- Wisconsin Citizen Action
- WISE Foundation
- Women’s Association of Northshore Democrats – Louisiana

Physician Groups:

National Groups

- American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- American Academy of Neurology
- American Academy of Pediatrics – With additional letters from:
 - New Hampshire
 - New Mexico
 - Rhode Island Chapter
 - Tennessee Chapter
- American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry

- American Psychiatric Association – With additional letters from:
 - Louisiana Chapter
 - New Hampshire Chapter
- National Alliance of Medical Researchers and Teaching Physicians

Local Groups

- American Academy of Physicians – Nebraska Chapter
- Bennet Breast Cancer Center (Maine)
- Missouri State Medical Association
- Nebraska Academy of Family Physicians
- Nebraska Medical Association
- New Hampshire Health Care Association
- New Mexico State Health Association
- Rhode Island Medical Association
- Rose Breast Center (Colorado)
- Virginia Medical Society
- Washington Healthcare Forum

Provider Groups:

National Groups

- American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
- American Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation
- American Association on Mental Retardation
- American Chiropractic Association – With additional letters from:
 - Arkansas Chapter
 - Kentucky Chapter
 - Louisiana Chapter
 - Maine Chapter
 - New Hampshire Chapter
 - Tennessee Chapter
 - Washington Chapter
- American Counseling Association
- American Group Psychotherapy Association
- American Managed Behavioral Healthcare Association
- American Mental Health Counselors Association
- American Nurses Association – With additional letters from:
 - Illinois Chapter
 - Maine Chapter
 - New Hampshire
 - New Mexico Chapter
 - Rhode Island Chapter
 - Tennessee Chapter
- American Optometric Association – With additional letters from:
 - Arkansas Chapter
 - Indiana Chapter
 - Kentucky Chapter
 - New Hampshire Chapter
 - New Mexico Chapter
 - Tennessee Chapter
 - Virginia Chapter
- American Podiatric Medical Association
- American Psychiatric Nurses Association

- American Psychological Association – With additional letters from:
 - Arkansas Chapter
 - Colorado Chapter
 - Illinois Chapter
 - Iowa Chapter
 - Indiana Chapter
 - Kentucky Chapter
 - Louisiana Chapter
 - North Carolina
 - Ohio Chapter
 - Rhode Island Chapter
 - Utah Chapter
- American Psychotherapy Association
- American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology, Inc.
- Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
- Association of Women’s Health, Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses
- Clinical Social Work Federation
- Employee Assistance Professionals Association
- Federation of Behavioral, Psychological and Cognitive Sciences
- National Association of County Behavioral Health Directors
- National Association of School Psychologists
- National Association of Social Workers – With additional letters from:
 - Arkansas Chapter
 - Louisiana Chapter
 - Maine Chapter
 - New Hampshire
 - New Mexico Chapter
 - Rhode Island Chapter
- National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors

Local Groups

- AAC Association (Nebraska)
- Action Counseling (Colorado)
- Acupuncture Association of Colorado
- Acupuncture Association of Utah
- Acupuncture Association of Washington
- Addiction and Behavioral Health Center (Nebraska)
- AIM Institute (Nebraska)
- Alegent Health Psychiatric (Nebraska)
- Alzheimer’s Association of Utah
- Arden Courts (Illinois)
- Arkansas Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
- Arkansas Chiropractic Legislative Council
- Arkansas Independent Living Council
- Arkansas Mental Health Counselors Association
- Aspen Therapy (Utah)
- Avenues to New Horizons (Nebraska)
- Avera St. Anthony’s Hospital (Nebraska)
- A.W.A.R.E. Inc. (Mental Health Provider – Montana)
- Bear River Mental Health Services (Utah)
- Beaver Valley Hospital (Utah)

- Behavioral Health Specialists (Nebraska)
- Bergan Mercy Child Development Center
- Black River Mental Health Services (Utah)
- Boulder County Partners (Colorado)
- Bungalow Care Center (Utah)
- Cedar Springs Behavioral Health (Colorado)
- Central District Health Center (Nebraska)
- Centennial Mental Health Center (Colorado)
- Central Iowa Psychological Services
- Collidge Mental Health Center (Nebraska)
- Community Adolescent Counseling (Colorado)
- Community Counseling Center of Aurora, Illinois
- Conway Regional Health Systems (Arkansas)
- Counseling Center for the Rockies (Colorado)
- Danville Services Corporation (Utah)
- Direct Benefits (Minnesota)
- First Call For Help (Nebraska)
- Franklin County (Ohio) Mental Health Association
- Full Circle Alternative Center (Colorado)
- Geneva Mental Health (Illinois)
- Gordon Memorial Hospital (Nebraska)
- Greater Portland (Maine) Pediatric Associates
- Healthy Mothers – Healthy Babies (Montana)
- Heartland Counseling and Consulting (Nebraska)
- Highland Ridge Hospital (Utah)
- Holladay Family and Child Guidance Clinic (Utah)
- Home Health Services and Staffing Association of New Jersey
- Institute for Alcohol Awareness (Fort Collins, Colorado)
- Institute for Alcohol Awareness (Greeley, Colorado)
- Jane Phillips Nawata Health Center (Oklahoma)
- Kane County Hospital (Utah)
- Kentucky Dental Association
- Kentucky Mental Health Consortium
- Leo Pocha Clinic (Montana)
- LifeWise Health Plan of Oregon
- Lincoln/Lancaster County Human Services Federation (Nebraska)
- Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists
- Louisiana Alliance for the Mentally Ill
- Louisiana Association for Ambulatory Healthcare
- Louisiana Association for the Advancement of Psychology
- Louisiana Healthcare Commission
- Louisiana Mental Health Consortium
- Leukemia Lymphoma Society of Oregon
- Maine Association of Mental Health Services
- Maine Nurse Practitioners Association
- Mesability (Colorado)
- Melham Medical Center (Nebraska)
- Mental Health Corporation (Colorado)
- Mental Health Liaison Group
- Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs
- Minnesota Council of Health Plans

- Missouri Ambulance Association
- Montana Council of Community Mental Health Centers
- Nemaha County Breast Cancer Support Group (Nebraska)
- New Hampshire Mental Health Coalition
- New Hampshire Pastoral Psychotherapists Association
- New West Health Services (Montana)
- Niobrara Valley Hospital (Nebraska)
- Northstar Mental Health Services (Nebraska)
- Northwest Alzheimer's Association (Nebraska)
- Ogallala Counseling Center (Nebraska)
- Ohio Ambulatory Healthcare Association
- Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities
- Ohio Clinical Social Work Society
- Ohio Counseling Association
- Ohio Council of Behavioral Healthcare Providers
- Ohio Dietetic Association
- Old Mill Counseling (Nebraska)
- Omni Behavioral Health (Nebraska)
- Providence Medical Center (Nebraska)
- Rainbow Center (Nebraska)
- Rhode Island Association of Health Centers
- Rhode Island Autism Project
- Rhode Island Council of Community Mental Health Organizations
- Rhode Island Dental Society
- Rural Counties Program, Spanish Peaks Mental Health Center (Colorado)
- Sanpete Valley Hospital (Utah)
- Saunders County (Nebraska) Health Services
- Serenity Place (Nebraska)
- Steiner & Associates, P.C.
- Stoney Ridge Day Treatment Center (Nebraska)
- Sweetgrass-Stillwater Mental Health Association (Montana)
- Tri-County Mental Health Services - Maine
- Tulane University Health Sciences Center (Louisiana)
- Utah Association of Pathologists
- Wasatch Canyon Mental Health (Utah)
- Washington Massage Therapy Association
- West Holt Memorial Hospital (Nebraska)
- Willowbrook Mental Health Center (Nebraska)

Health Insurance Trade Associations:

- American Association of Health Plans – With additional letters from:
 - Kentucky Association of Health Plans
 - New Jersey Association of Health Plans
 - Ohio Association of Health Plans
 - Virginia Association of Health Plans
 - Association of Washington Healthcare Plans
- American Republic Insurance Company (Iowa)
- Association of Health Insurance Advisors/National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors – With additional letters from:
 - Maine Chapter
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

- Delta Dental Plans Association – With additional letters from all 50 state plans
- Christiana Care Health Plans
- Federation of Iowa Insurers
- Health Insurance Association of America – With additional letters from:
- Magellan Health Services
- National Association of Health Underwriters – With additional letters from:
 - Arkansas Chapter
 - Central Arkansas Chapter
 - Maine Chapter
 - New Hampshire
 - Ohio Chapter
 - Rio Grande (New Mexico)
- Principle Financial Group (Iowa)
- Tufts Health Plan