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## **STATEMENT ON NEW REPORT SHOWING THE COST OF NOT FIXING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

*A new Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) report projects that if significant reform efforts are not enacted, by 2015 there could be as many as 59.7 million people uninsured nationwide – and further estimates that the number could swell to 67.6 million by 2020 – with middle-income families hardest hit. An estimated 49.4 million individuals were without health coverage in 2010. The report, conducted by researchers from the Urban Institute, was released today as a part of Cover the Uninsured Week. For more information, see [www.covertheuninsured.org](http://www.covertheuninsured.org).*

“It comes as no surprise to New Jersey Citizen Action Education Fund (NJCAEF) to hear that our health care system is broken and headed towards an even worse future, but a new report from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) gives us a peek into just how bad things could get in the next five and ten years if we continue to go down the path we are on.

The analysis, conducted by the Urban Institute, shows that the middle-class would suffer most without reform. The uninsured rate for middle-class families earning 200-399 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) – roughly \$40,000-\$75,000 a year – would rise by nine percentage points, from 19 percent to 28 percent over the next 10 years. Overall, the share of the uninsured from all families with incomes higher than about \$40,000 would rise from 44 percent to 53 percent in 2020.

For employers who continued to offer health insurance benefits, an increasing amount of the costs would likely be passed on to workers. At the same time, individuals and families would face higher out-of-pocket costs for premiums and health care services. Spending for families and individuals would jump by 34 percent in 2015 and by 79 percent in 2020.

Families in New Jersey can't afford to see our health care costs rise by more than a third in five short years. Already there are 1.3 million people in our state who lack health coverage and do not get the care they need. These individuals are forced to gamble every day that they won't get sick or injured. Our businesses are also struggling under the weight of ever increasing health care costs.

Now more than ever, we must make significant changes to our health care system to decrease costs and ensure that all Americans have quality, affordable care to keep our families healthy and financially secure.

The NJ For Health Care Coalition is a broad-based alliance of over 60 health care, consumer, senior, student, labor, faith-based, women's, disability, civil rights, and social justice organizations representing over 2 million members, working to bring quality, affordable health care to all New Jersey residents. NJCAEF is the lead state organization for the NJ Consumer Voices for Coverage Project, a joint initiative of [Community Catalyst](#) and the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#), focused

on ensuring consumer concerns are represented in both state and national health care reform. For more information about NJ For Health Care and Consumer Voices for Coverage see [www.njforhealthcare.org](http://www.njforhealthcare.org).”

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***New Jersey Citizen Action Education Fund** (NJCAEF) is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, founded in 1983, promoting the empowerment of low- and middle-income people through research, education and training around public policy issues and direct counseling and services.*