



HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

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HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS TAKES STAND FOR HEALTH COVERAGE FOR WORKING FLORIDIANS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – In an appeal for legislative action this session to expand health coverage for working Floridians, today House Democratic Leaders Perry Thurston (D-Fort Lauderdale) and Mia Jones (D-Jacksonville) joined numerous other Democratic Caucus members at a press conference to explain a caucus stance on a state budget proposal.

House Democratic Caucus members said that they believe an expansion of health coverage is affordable and achievable, and that it is imperative that Republican leaders respond with action and available funding as directed by the nation's Affordable Care Act.

Democratic Caucus members said that expansion of health coverage that relies on available federal resources could provide coverage to more than 1 million Floridians, is estimated to save more than 5,000 lives a year, and would create tens of thousands of good-paying jobs throughout Florida.

At the event, **Leader Thurston** said:

“We stand here united today to indicate that we think that health care coverage for working Floridians is a top priority. It is so important that we have taken a caucus position against the budget. It's important that we will do what will save lives for Floridians, and that which will create much-needed jobs for Floridians. We know that at least 1 million individuals to provide health care coverage . We're fighting for them. We're standing with them.”

Democratic Leader Pro Tempore Mia Jones made the following comment:

“We have an opportunity right now to draw down our Florida tax dollars, the very tax dollars that (our residents) pay out. (Florida) has been known as a donor state for many years. We don't want (Florida) to stay at the top of that donor list at the same time that (the Legislature) fails to provide the coverage that's available to over a million

Floridians. Today, we're doing what's right for Floridians... We're committed to representing them, supporting them and standing up for them.”

Representative Victor Torres (D-Orlando) said:

“Medicaid expansion, especially for constituents of hard working families, is vital for this state. We need to address this and make sure our hard working families are taken care of. The single moms and the dads who are working and can't afford health care coverage deserve the coverage. In the Latino community, I know this is one of the biggest issues. We have to help them acquire this (health coverage).”

**CLICK ON IMAGE BELOW TO WATCH THE FLORIDA CHANNEL COVERAGE OF
4/10/13 House Democratic Caucus Press Conference on Health Coverage for Working Families**

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