



NEWS RELEASE

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Health-care reforms -- PROGRAM AT USI DESIGNED TO SORT OUT THE ISSUES

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An objective look at the complicated issues in proposed health-care reforms will be the goal on Tuesday, May 10, at the University of Southern Indiana, when Bill Hembree, director of Health Research Institute (HRI) in Walnut Creek, California, returns to make his fourth health-care presentation in Evansville.

Hembree has 25 years of experience in the field. HRI was founded in 1978 as a non-profit, research-based organization providing health-care cost containment and health improvement policy planning and implementation assistance, research, health education, data collection and analysis, and communications services for major public and private employers, unions, and coalitions.

The USI program has been underwritten by the Tri-State Business Group on Health and the Evansville Personnel Association, helping to hold registration fees at \$10 for the morning session, \$20 for morning and afternoon (including lunch). The program is being presented in cooperation with the Metropolitan Evansville Chamber of Commerce, the USI School of Nursing and Health Professions, and USI Extended Services, and coordinated by the Southern Indiana Labor-Management Education Forum at USI.

Tim Mahoney, forum coordinator, explained health-care reform is a confusing, overwhelming topic and the discussion so far has been a mixture of sound bites, short interviews, and a great deal of conflicting debate, all thrust in the middle of many other topics of the day.

Some people have resigned themselves to accept whatever Congress passes, Mahoney notes, while others want to know what they can do to enter the discussion. The May 10 program will help sort out the various proposals, compare them with the plan proposed by President Clinton, and show how participants can get their voices heard in the national debate.

The May 10 program will be presented in two sessions, 8 a.m.-12 noon and 12:45-3:30 p.m., all in Forum I. The morning session will deal with "The Macro View: Understanding the Overall Situation" and "Becoming Proactive;" the afternoon session will cover "The Micro View: Understanding the Specifics of Each Proposal."

Since health care plays such a significant role in everyone's life, Mahoney said, anyone interested in the health-care issues is encouraged to attend one or both sessions. Participants will be given an opportunity to complete a report card on the major aspects of each plan. They also will be given a 100-page notebook, a resource guide containing proposals for health-care reform and legislation, and the names and addresses of legislators and congressional committees considering the proposals.

Advance registration is suggested; call 812/464-1989. For information, call Mahoney at 812/464-1863.