

For Immediate Release
Thursday, March 8, 2001

Grassley Announces Hearings on the Uninsured

Hearing 1: “Living Without Health Insurance: Who’s Uninsured and Why?”
Date/time: Tuesday, March 13, 2001, at 2:30 p.m.
Location: 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Hearing 2: “Living Without Health Insurance: Solutions to the Problem”
Date/time: Thursday, March 15, 2001, at 2:30 p.m.
Location: 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Description: Millions of Americans live without health insurance. Leaders including President Bush and Sen. Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Committee on Finance, plan to address this problem. Grassley will convene two committee hearings. The first will identify the populations that make up the uninsured and their unique characteristics that cause them to go without health coverage. Specifically, this hearing will address the low-income population, the working population, the near-elderly, and the immigrant population. The second hearing will focus on ways to address the problem. Witnesses will discuss solutions such as individual tax credits, employer tax credits, increased flexibility in Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, program expansions, and ways to improve outreach.

Witness List: “Living Without Health Insurance: Who’s Uninsured and Why?”
Tuesday, March 13, 2001

A Panel Consisting of:

Kathryn G. Allen, Director, Health Care -- Medicaid and Private Health Insurance Issues, United States General Accounting Office, Washington, D.C.

Diane Rowland, Executive Director, Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, Washington, D.C.

Mary R. Greal, President, Healthcare Leadership Council, Washington, D.C.

Richard W. Johnson, Senior Research Associate, The Urban Institute, Washington, D.C.

Leighton Ku, Senior Fellow in Health Policy, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Washington, D.C.

Note: A witness list for “Solutions to the Uninsured Problem” will be available later.