



**NFIB**<sup>®</sup>

**IOWA ASSOCIATION OF  
BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

*The Voice of Iowa Business Since 1903.*

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**Iowa lawmakers Preparing to Increase Costs for Businesses Providing Health Care**  
*Press conference to sound alarm about unintended consequences of good intentions*

**DES MOINES, Iowa, Feb. 17, 2009** – Iowa small business owners and their representative associations will gather in the state capitol on Tuesday, Feb. 17 to sound the alarm about a host of bills that if passed would make it more difficult for the state’s largest employer group to provide healthcare for hard working Iowans.

“The cold, hard facts of the matter are that by enacting more legal requirements on health insurers to include more and more treatments in their basic plans, legislators will drive more people into the ranks of the medically uninsured, not improve the healthcare of Iowans,” said Andy Warren, Iowa state director for the National Federation of Independent Business.

Charles Sukup, Board Chairman of the Association of Business and Industry remarked, “In recent years, however, the continuing rise in costs has made health care benefits less affordable for the companies providing it as well as the employees who often share in its costs,” remarked Mr. Sukup who heads Sukup Manufacturing located in Sheffield, Iowa.”

John Brockardt, of Hunter’s Specialities, Inc in Cedar Rapids commented, “health insurance costs are a challenge to fund every year, increasing those costs through mandates makes a difficult job harder,” concluded Brockardt.

“It is quite common to have double-digit premium increases annually. With the tough economic times, providing health insurance is one of the biggest challenges facing small businesses,” noted Paul Dupey of Dupey Equipment Company of Clive.

Of particular concern is House File 234, which if passed would require coverage for both mental illness and substance abuse, according to Warren. In passing its mental health parity law of 2008, Congress recognized the immense financial challenges facing small business owners by limiting it to firms with more than 50 employees. Joining Warren and Sukup are small business owners John Brockardt of Hunter’s Specialities, Inc. in Cedar Rapids and Paul Dupey of Dupey Equipment Company of Clive.

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*NFIB is the nation's leading small business advocacy association, with offices in Washington, D.C. and all 50 state capitals. Founded in 1943 as a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, NFIB gives small and independent business owners a voice in shaping the public policy issues that affect their business. NFIB's powerful network of grassroots activists sends their views directly to state and federal lawmakers through our unique member-only ballot, thus playing a critical role in supporting America's free enterprise system. NFIB's mission is to promote and protect the right of our members to own, operate and grow their businesses. More information about NFIB is available online at [www.NFIB.com/newsroom](http://www.NFIB.com/newsroom)*

*As The Voice of Iowa Business Since 1903, ABI is comprised of 1,400 Iowa businesses employing more than 300,000 Iowans. Member organizations represent all types and sizes of business. ABI's mission is to collectively provide a strong, unified voice to business and industry on issues impacting Iowa employers. Specific emphasis is given to legislative and regulatory matters and to education and leadership development, including ongoing training to member businesses annually. More information about ABI can be found online at [www.iowaabi.org](http://www.iowaabi.org).*