

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Alabama Appleseed & Alabama Arise Hold Rally for Healthcare Reform Now

Date of Rally: Tuesday, April 7, 2009, at 11:00 AM

Location – Steps of the Alabama State House, 11 S. Union Street

Montgomery – The Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice and Arise Citizens' Policy Project will hold a rally for Healthcare Reform Now on the steps of the State House in Montgomery on Tuesday, April 7th at 11:00 AM. With the number of uninsured persons growing daily and with health insurance premiums continuing to escalate, it is imperative that policy makers at both the national and state level enact reforms that will make quality and affordable health care accessible to everyone. At the rally Appleseed and Arise will also welcome and introduce to Alabama Ms. Kathie McClure, who heads up an Atlanta-based grassroots health advocacy organization called [VoteHealthcare.Org/Purple Bus Tour](http://VoteHealthcare.Org/PurpleBusTour). Ms. McClure, formerly a lawyer in Atlanta, started her grassroots advocacy organization last year and is beginning the second year of her Purple Bus Tour which will make stops in at least 16 states. Senator Linda Coleman, Chair of the Alabama Senate Health Care Committee, will also be present and speak. At this rally Appleseed and Arise will present the latest statistics on the number of uninsured persons in Alabama as determined by a Families USA report to be released on April 7th.

A healthy Alabama is a prosperous Alabama. Every Alabamian needs access to quality, affordable health care. However, our current health system is broken, and many are not receiving basic health care and critical preventative screening. Over half a million Alabamians currently have no health insurance coverage. Many who do have insurance face rising premiums and struggle to pay for adequate coverage for themselves and their families. Others are losing family members, neighbors and friends because regular, preventative care is not available or affordable to the average family. Large and small businesses alike also find it more and more difficult to provide affordable health coverage for their employees. In the last decade, health insurance premiums for most people have more than doubled, and without reform, experts say they will double again by 2016. Medical treatment in the United States is the best in the world, but much of this treatment is inaccessible and too expensive. We have a healthcare system made up of existing public programs and a strong private insurance market that if reformed effectively could provide quality and affordable healthcare for everyone. Now is the time for us to join together to make sure that all of us have the opportunity to live a healthy and prosperous life.

Founded in 1999, Alabama Appleseed is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that identifies significant needs in the state, tackles their root causes, and crafts practical, lasting solutions through legal advocacy, community involvement, and policy expertise.