

I would like to invite you to a public event I will be hosting Wednesday, Feb. 17, in Lincoln. This summit, entitled “Healthy Lifestyles, Healthy Companies: Addressing Rising Health Care Costs for Nebraska Small Businesses” will examine how local businesses have addressed costs using health and wellness incentives for employees. It will be held from 10 am to 12 noon at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital at 5401 South Street.

As you well know, our nation has been engaged for some time in a very important and spirited debate about the direction of our health care system. No one disputes the diagnosis – we must strengthen health care in America. Patient-centered health care reform has long been a top priority in my office, and I have repeatedly emphasized that our deliberations should be focused on improving health outcomes, reducing costs, and protecting vulnerable persons.

To this end, one of my priorities is shifting the health care paradigm from a system that treats the symptoms of sickness and disease to one that promotes lifelong wellness and prevention. The meeting will focus on this issue and continue the dialogue started at the Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry field hearing which I hosted in August, “Addressing the ‘Health’ in Health Care.” We have invited employers to share best practices of how they are encouraging and incentivizing wellness for their employees and addressing costs in the process. We will also hear from wellness experts who assist companies in building individualized templates based on specific needs.

Rather than waiting on Washington to provide direction, I want to highlight and build upon the innovation and entrepreneurship of Nebraska companies who are already addressing the health care challenges facing their businesses.

**“Healthy Lifestyles, Healthy Companies:  
Addressing Rising Health Care Costs  
for Nebraska Small Businesses”**

For individuals and businesses interested in controlling health care costs using health and wellness initiatives

Wednesday, February 17, 2010  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital  
Sheridan Room  
5401 South St. Lincoln, NE

I hope you will plan to attend; please RSVP to my Lincoln District Office at (402) 438-1598 no

later than Friday, February 12, 2010. Thank you for considering this opportunity, I look forward to a constructive discussion.