

## **Obama Announces New State Health Reform Forums in April and May**

As a follow-up to the White House health reform summit held March 5, President Obama announced on March 6 a new series of regional White House Forums on Health Reform that would be held in five states in March and April. The forums will be open to the public; held in California, Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina, and Vermont; and hosted by the states' governors. Additional details about dates and venues will be announced at a later date.

“The time for reform is now and these regional forums are some of the key first steps toward breaking the stalemate we have been stuck in for far too long,” Obama said in the release. “The forums will bring together diverse groups of people all over the country who have a stake in reforming our health care system and ask them to put forward their best ideas about how we can bring down costs and expand coverage for American families.” Go to the White House Briefing Room Blog to access the announcement: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/09/03/06/slideshow-forum-on-health-reform-and-next-steps/>.

In addition, the White House released on March 5 a report summarizing information collected from numerous town-hall style meetings on health care reform held across the country in December 2008 that was attended by stakeholders, business representatives, advocacy groups, and citizens. The report, *Americans Speak on Health Reform: Report on Health Care Community Discussions*, is available at <http://www.healthreform.gov/reports/index.html>.

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