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CONTACT: Richard Coorsh

(202) 624-1527

(202) 215-1486 (mobile)

e-mail: rcoorsh@fah.org

**NEW VOTER SURVEY: MORE THAN FOUR OUT OF FIVE DEMAND
IMMEDIATE ACTION TO SOLVE UNINSURANCE CRISIS
Federation's Health Coverage Passport Proposal Retains Strong Support**

WASHINGTON, DC – Eighty-three percent of voters believe that the next President and Congress should act immediately to address the crisis of the uninsured, according to a new poll released today by the Federation of American Hospitals.

The number of uninsured Americans has grown to 48 million and will grow to nearly 50 million in 2010, and one in five of the uninsured are children, according to a second report, also released today by the Federation.

“The longer we wait to act, the worse the crisis becomes,” remarked Federation President Chip Kahn. “It already is an intolerable burden for too many American families today.”

A majority of voters view the Federation's comprehensive “Health Coverage Passport” (HCP) proposal, issued last year, as an effective solution, according to the new poll.

The Federation's HCP proposal would achieve what is tantamount to universal coverage by building upon what works in today's system and fixing what doesn't. It strengthens employer-based coverage, expands public programs, provides sliding scale assistance for individuals who need it, and requires all Americans to have coverage, among other reforms.

Ninety percent of voters state that retaining employer-based coverage is a crucial element of effective health reform. In addition, nearly two-thirds favor an individual mandate, according to the Federation poll.

“Clearly, one year later, the concepts in our proposal retain strong support from Americans,” concluded Mr. Kahn. “Health Coverage Passport can be a powerful catalyst for change and should be used immediately to jump-start our national dialogue about the uninsured.”

The two Federation reports issued today were prepared by American Viewpoint, one of the nation's leading public polling organizations, and The Lewin Group, one of the nation's most prominent organizations that analyzes health policy. The American Viewpoint survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.8 percent. Both reports, along with detailed information about Health Coverage Passport, are available at www.fah.org.

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The Federation of American Hospitals is the national representative of investor-owned or managed hospitals and health systems. Our members include general community and teaching hospitals in urban and rural areas as well as rehabilitation, long-term acute care, cancer, and psychiatric hospitals.