



***MEDIA ADVISORY***

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**CONTACT: Nicole Korkolis**  
**Carmen Group**  
**212-983-6100**  
[korkolisn@carmengroup.com](mailto:korkolisn@carmengroup.com)

**Dr. William Peck, Dick Gephardt to co-host second  
Summit Conversation in St. Louis**

**Healthcare forum to be held March 10 at Washington University at 1 p.m. (CST)**

WASHINGTON, DC – Dr. William Peck and Dick Gephardt, distinguished Missourians who for decades have been at the forefront of the fight for healthcare reform, will co-host the second in a series of “Summit Conversations” March 10 at 1 p.m. (CST) at the Edison Theatre of Washington University.

Sponsored by *America’s Agenda: Healthcare Education Fund*, the Summit Conversations will highlight the emerging national consensus on key components of a reformed 21<sup>st</sup> century healthcare system, and will be held in cities throughout the country over the next 12 months. They will bring together 100 of America’s leaders in business, labor, government and the healthcare sector.

Dr. Peck, an internist for more than 40 years, is the founder of the Center for Health Policy at Washington University. As director, he leads the center’s study and analysis of social disparities in access to health care, the rising cost of health care for businesses, and the impact of new health product discoveries in and on the marketplace.

Gephardt was House Majority Leader and point man for the Clinton healthcare reform plan in 1993. When he retired from Congress, he joined the board of *America’s Agenda* so that he could continue working for genuine healthcare reform.

“These are two health care heroes I’ve long admired,” said *America’s Agenda* President Doug Dority. “Dr. Peck has been a nationally recognized leader in health care in so many ways. During his 14-year tenure as dean, the Washington University School of Medicine became one of our nation’s finest. On his watch, the school built the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center, which received national recognition by becoming one of the National Cancer Institute’s designated cancer centers.

“As for Dick Gephardt, for more than 30 years he has been a champion in the fight to win affordable, high-quality health care for all Americans,” said Dority. “His commitment to

achieving the reform this country so desperately needs has been well documented. As a board member of *America's Agenda*, he has played a key role in shaping Summit Conversations.”

Other confirmed participants include:

- Joseph J. Hunt, General President, Iron Workers International
- Dr. John Lechleiter, CEO, Eli Lilly
- Steve Lipstein, President and CEO, BJC HealthCare
- William D. Novelli, CEO, AARP
- Dr. Donald Suggs, President, St. Louis American
- John Sweeney, President, AFL-CIO
- Dr. Gloria Wilder, President and CEO, Core Health

Nationally renowned political commentator Bill Press will moderate the Summit discussions that will take on such topics as identification of cost drivers in health care, disease prevention, management of chronic disease, coordination of care, restructuring patient and provider incentives, improving health information technology and how to provide affordable access to all. The St. Louis Summit Conversation will focus on the critical role of healthcare reform in restoring the health of America's economy.

The Summit series was launched January 28 at the University of Miami with President Donna Shalala as host. In addition to the St. Louis event, the following Summits have been planned:

- University of Wisconsin, School of Law, Madison, Wisconsin  
Host: Former HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson  
April 7
- UCSF School of Medicine, San Francisco, California  
Host: Dr. Stephen L. Hauser, Chair, Dept. of Neurology  
May 6

Highlights of the Miami Summit are available at [www.summitconversations.org](http://www.summitconversations.org); live video streams of the St. Louis Summit will be available on the site on March 10.