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Leaders from Government, Labor and Health Care Join America's Agenda Board

WASHINGTON, DC – America's Agenda: Health Care for All President Doug Dority announced today that three leaders drawn from government, international labor and the health care sector have joined the America's Agenda Board of Directors.

The new board members include Tommy G. Thompson, the 42nd Governor of Wisconsin and the 19th U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services; Tom Buffenbarger, president of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW), which represents hundreds-of-thousands of American workers from 200 different industries; and Lloyd Dean, chief executive officer of Catholic Healthcare West, a not-for-profit medical provider that serves sick, poor and disadvantaged patients across three states.

"These new board members demonstrate the continuing convergence of diverse voices ready to support meaningful health care reform," said Dority "I am delighted to have these three strong leaders join us in our effort to bring affordable, quality health care to all Americans."

Secretary Thompson added that he was "excited by the opportunity to work on a bipartisan basis with partners from both business and labor to advance innovative solutions to the health care challenges facing American families." Thompson has been a strong proponent of information technology in hospitals, clinics and doctors' offices; promoting healthier lifestyles; and, strengthening and modernizing the American health care system.

"These are all quality and cost factors that must be addressed if we are to have a comprehensive approach to improving American medicine," agreed IAMAW's Buffenbarger.

Dean, representing providers and the patients they serve, also expressed a "strong belief that we must advance a constructive dialogue now, amongst all parties, if we want to control spiraling health care costs while also seeking ways to expand access to care."

About America's Agenda

America's Agenda brings together national and international labor unions, businesses, and government leaders who share a common commitment to achieving guaranteed access to affordable, high quality care for every American. America's Agenda has launched a series of high-profile "Summit Conversations on American Health Care for the 21st Century" that have explored the emerging consensus among leaders of business, labor, health care, and government regarding health care reform. The latest Summit Conversation was held on May 6 at the University of California, San Francisco and hosted by Emmy Award-winning moderator Bill Press, the host of *The Bill Press Show*, a nationally syndicated radio talk show. Visit America's Agenda online at www.americasagenda.org and watch previous Summit Conversations at www.summitconversations.org.