

For decades, policy-makers have failed to find a way to provide access to affordable health care for all Americans. As the number of unemployed increases, the health care crisis looms larger than ever and financial security becomes more remote for millions of Americans.

AARP and the Service Employees International Union are among the diverse organizations representing business, consumers and labor that have come together under "DividedWeFail" in the common pursuit of health and financial security for all.

Through our efforts, more than 360 members of Congress --including Nebraska Sens. Ben Nelson and Mike Johanns and Reps. Jeff Fortenberry, Lee Terry and Adrian Smith-- have committed to putting aside partisan differences and taking action on health and financial security. Along with them, 1.6 million Americans and 7,600 Nebraskans signed on, demanding bipartisan action on these top domestic priorities. We are prepared to work with President-elect Obama and the new Congress to help shape the way these issues are addressed.

We believe that by working together, we can find solutions to ensure good-quality, affordable health care for all Americans. Failure to act is no longer an option. We must rise to the challenge of health reform.

Connie Benjamin, *Lincoln*

State director, AARP Nebraska

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State director Service Employees International Union

