



Janice L. Mathis and Rainbow PUSH Coalition Statement on Georgia Response to Federal Health Care Legislation

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(Athens, GA – March 26, 2010) The Rainbow PUSH Coalition applauds the decision of Georgia Attorney General Thurbert Baker not to file a federal lawsuit to block federal health care reform legislation signed into law this Tuesday. Georgia is number one in bank failures, number three in bankruptcy filings and number seven in foreclosures. The unemployment rate in Georgia has exceeded the national average for 28 consecutive months. Georgia needs the economic stimulus that will come from adding thousands of persons to the roles of the insured. Persons who purchase insurance under President Obama's plan will require the services of doctors, nurses and hospitals, medical technicians and others. The previously uninsured will flock to medical providers with pent-up demand for health care services, creating much-needed jobs in Georgia and across the country. The Governor, and those who oppose the plan, should be prudent in their calls to impeach Baker. They are counseled to wait and see whether and how the program works. Earlier this week I spoke to several young women in their 20's at the radio station where I work part-time. They all say that despite working full-time, they have not seen a doctor regularly since they left college. But now, under the new plan, they were giddy at the prospect of getting routine care like pap smears, mammograms and dental exams at prices they can afford. Multiply those anecdotes by thousands and it is easy to see that the health care legislation has the power to create demand for service and jobs. Georgia does not need knee-jerk reaction; it needs jobs, wise thoughtful leadership, vision and patience.

