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NEWS RELEASE

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New Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan

Coverage now available to Idahoans

BOISE ID (July 8, 2010) – As of July 1, 2010, Idaho residents are able to apply for a new Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

"Idahoans who have been unable to obtain health insurance due to a pre-existing condition will now have a new option," says Idaho Department of Insurance Director Bill Deal. "They will be able to purchase coverage comparable to that of a healthy individual."

To qualify for coverage, Idahoans must have been uninsured for at least six months, have been unable to obtain health coverage because of a health condition and be U.S. citizens or reside in the United States legally.

Jay Angoff, Director of the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, says that participants will be able to purchase comprehensive coverage and pay a "reasonable cost" for premiums.

Idaho is one of 21 states electing to have HHS administer the plan. To learn more about the options available for Idahoans, visit http://www.healthcare.gov/.

Idaho consumers are encouraged to contact the Department of Insurance with questions about this or other insurance-related issues by calling 334-4250 in Boise, or 800-721-3272 toll-free statewide. The Department's website is www.doi.idaho.gov.

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