

2009 - It's Time!

Why We Need National Health Care Reform Now

"We need legislation that will provide access to affordable basic coverage."

-Yvonne Thompson, Jackson, TN

Yvonne Thompson has her own home-based virtual assistance business, which supplies her with enough income to purchase a reasonably priced private health insurance plan. Yvonne did this for five years and it served her needs well. **Unfortunately, when Yvonne turned 56 last year, her health insurance premiums went up by nearly 50 percent.** "To me, that was a slap in the face," she says. "I am getting penalized for getting older."

Yvonne had to purchase a different insurance policy at that point – one that costs less and covers less. She now has an insurmountable \$5000 deductible. **Yvonne goes without regular doctor visits, dental and vision care. Her doctor recently recommended that she have a colonoscopy, which she cannot afford to get.**

"I am fortunate to be of good health now," Yvonne says. "If that changes, I will not be able to afford the costs to visit my doctor on a regular basis or the treatments required for those visits." **Since Yvonne has been buying her health insurance privately, she is not eligible for CoverTN, even though she works fulltime and is a resident of Tennessee.** "I have been a contributing member of society for more than 30 years," she says. "I should be able to see a doctor when I need to."



Small business owner Yvonne Thompson is pictured sharing her health care story at a May 2009 Town Hall Meeting in Jackson, TN.



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