

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 4, 2005

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## Private sector solutions exist to help uninsured Kansans

(WICHITA) – In recognition of the national “Cover the Uninsured Week,” The Flint Hills Center for Public Policy today released a [policy brief](#) explaining how Kansas policymakers can develop a tax credit program to assist those in need of insurance. This policy brief can be found at [www.flinthills.org](http://www.flinthills.org).

“The millions of Americans without insurance demand the attention of policymakers,” says author and Flint Hills Consumer Driven Health Care Project director Matthew Hisrich. “At the same time, the rate of uninsured in Kansas is below that of almost all of its neighbors. This is a problem that can be dealt with effectively.”

At a time when the state government is struggling with the increasing burden of Medicaid, expanding or creating government insurance programs is not a realistic approach. A better path is for policymakers to engage the private sector to the greatest extent possible. A three-pronged approach could help make Kansas a leader in addressing this important issue:

- Tax credits. Kansas policymakers currently offer tax credits to small employers who offer their employees coverage. These credits should be expanded to individuals and families.
- Health Savings Accounts. State based cash accounts for Medicaid recipients would allow beneficiaries to build up a reserve to either use as a Health Savings Account (HSA) or to eventually pay for private insurance.
- Mandate reform. Reducing state-mandated benefits would make insurance more affordable for those least able to afford basic coverage. Kansas outpaces the national average, as well as most of its neighbors, when it comes to imposing mandates on health insurance coverage.

“It is vital that we neither overstate the problem nor attempt to tackle it using the wrong tools,” says Hisrich. “State-run programs have the potential to create a cycle of dependence and increasing costs. Employing the private sector is crucial to developing a sustainable approach for covering the uninsured.”

The Consumer Driven Health Care Project of the Flint Hills Center addresses the issue of how to contain inflation in the health care market, and, at the same time, preserve an individual’s ability to find affordable and responsive care.

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*The Flint Hills Center for Public Policy is an independent voice for sound public policy in Kansas. As a non-profit, nonpartisan think tank, the Center provides critical information about policy options to legislators and citizens. For more information, please visit our web site at [www.flinthills.org](http://www.flinthills.org) or contact us at [inquiries@flinthills.org](mailto:inquiries@flinthills.org) or by phone at (316) 634-0218.*



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