H.A.C. FLORIDA, INC.
Having Affordable Coverage

H.A.C., P.O. Box 395, Port Richey, Fl 34673
Ph: (727) 967- 8220 ~ Fax: (727) 863-7073
www.hacfl.org

MEDIA PRESS RELEASE JANUARY 24, 2007

Having Affordable Coverage (HAC) Calls Insurance Bill Encouraging First Step

Pledges Continued Effort for Comprehensive Insurance Reform
The group applauds prior rate approval, ban on rate arbitration, cherry-picking restrictions and CEO accountability as major victories, but says the insurance crisis is far from over.

Having Affordable Coverage (HAC) along with a statewide coalition of grassroots consumer advocacy organizations, labor unions and neighborhood groups are supporting Governor Charlie Crist with the legislative package on insurance that passed during the final hours of the special legislative session on Monday.

HAC along with these groups spent many hours lobbying our legislators asking for needed change and rate relief to the homeowners of Florida. Originally after hearing that the Bill would only yield small rate reductions we wanted to call for a Veto. After weighing the pros and cons of a Veto we choose to back Governor Crist is the signing to law of this Bill. We believe our legislators took a ***"good first step,"*** in reforming Florida's insurance system. One of our main objectives of this Special Session was to have Senate Bill 1980 repealed so homeowners and businesses would not face additional increases that were in the hundreds of percent. HAC acknowledges that there is still much work to be done before all the insurance consumers of this state see the broad-based rate relief they so sorely need. We still have sincere concerns about Florida's insurance regulatory structure and understand that there are still areas that need real reform before this crisis is over. We are committed to continuing our efforts to have our legislators regain control of our state of the greedy insurance industry. Our upcoming focus of the regular session is to receive greater rate reductions, have prior rate approval "permanently", get more transparency, do away with the "Pup" companies, and have insurance companies give "full" disclosure of their profits when they are applying for rate increases. These along with other needed changes can be done and we will not be going away until insurance in Florida is back to a "reasonable" "affordable" rate. We look forward to working with our State and Local officials and want to give a special thanks to two outstanding Senators who stood out as a voice for their people. Senator Rhonda Storms and Senator Mike Fasano went over and above in this Special Session pushing for deeper rate reductions, anti-cherry picking, and many amendments that were voted down. We commend your efforts and look forward to fighting side by side during the upcoming regular session.

HAC was proud to work with all the Senators, both Republican and Democrat and feel that we saw total bi-partnership within these committees. Florida's property insurance crisis has grown over several years and, as such, is not a problem that can be fixed all at once. We are committed to keep up the fight and encourage each and every citizen in Florida to become involved, join HAC and help lower insurance premiums in Florida.