



# ASK JIM DONELON

*Your Commissioner of Insurance*

**Q • What is "Cover the Uninsured Week," and what good does that do anybody?**

**A •** "Cover the Uninsured Week," set for April 27 - May 3 this year, is the sixth annual campaign created to call attention to the fact that an estimated 717,000 Louisiana residents do not have health care insurance, according to recent reports. That is over 16 percent of our adult state population.

Throughout "Cover the Uninsured Week," we step up our continuing efforts to let people know of available sources for health insurance coverage they may have overlooked. We also encourage everyone in the state to actively seek out ways—through the community, business and governmental contacts—to help make affordable coverage available to more and more Louisiana individuals and families in the future.

The major focus of this year's Cover the Uninsured observance here at the Department of Insurance is a free half-day seminar on Health Insurance Options for Small Businesses. The seminar will be held on Thursday, May 1, in the Associated Grocers Conference Room, 8600 Anselmo Lane, in Baton Rouge from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Ask your insurance commissioner, p. 2

The seminar is a cooperative effort of our Louisiana Health Care Commission and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana. A large portion of the people of Louisiana work for small businesses, and many are uninsured because the business does not offer any health care benefits. Small business owners may sometimes assume they can't afford to offer health care coverage to their employees. After attending one of these workshops, they may realize that—with the various options open to them—they really can't afford not to provide health care coverage for employees and their families. Workshop participants also learn how to shop for the right insurance program for a specific kind of business.

For information about the Health Insurance Options for Small Businesses seminar or for answers to other questions about affordable health insurance, e-mail Thomas Clemons at [tclemons@ldi.state.la.us](mailto:tclemons@ldi.state.la.us), call 1-800-259-5300 and ask to speak with someone about "Cover the Uninsured Week," or log on to [covertheuninsured.org](http://covertheuninsured.org).

*Anyone with insurance-related questions or concerns is encouraged to contact the Department of Insurance. PHONE: 1-800-259-5300 or 225-342-0895  
ADDRESS: Louisiana Department of Insurance, P.O. Box 94214, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9214 E-MAIL: [public@ldi.state.la.us](mailto:public@ldi.state.la.us) WEB SITE: [www.ldi.state.la.us](http://www.ldi.state.la.us)*