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TV JOURNO DE LA CRUZ SEES OPPORTUNITY IN CRITICAL WINDOW IN HISTORY: "PASS ERIC'S LAW BY ERIC'S BIRTHDAY"

At the close of President Obama's bipartisan health care summit, De La Cruz calls for renewed urgency to finish historic reform effort in time to honor her brother's birthday.



Eric De La Cruz would have celebrated his birthday April 20. His sister hopes supporters can celebrate it with the passage of health care reform.

WASHINGTON, DC—February 26, 2010 - After spending the prior two days meeting with lawmakers in the Capitol and watching President Obama's presumably final effort at bipartisan reform package, TV journalist and health care reform activist Veronica De La Cruz has called on supporters to demand their representatives in Congress pass reform by April 20, her brother Eric's birthday.

"We have fought so hard and so long to make a change for the thousands of people stuck in the same situation that Eric was in a year ago," said De La Cruz. "Now is not the time to give up. It is the time to press harder."

De La Cruz has been campaigning for "Eric's Law" since her brother passed away in July 2009 while awaiting a heart transplant delayed for years by a lack of adequate insurance. By generating the support of thousands online, blogging about her fight, and speaking at rallies across the country, De La Cruz has become a highly visible spokesperson for meaningful reform that includes a public option and an end to discrimination based on preexisting medical conditions.

Early indications are that Democratic leadership of both the House and Senate are poised to move forward, with or without bipartisan support. Passage of the Senate bill by the House, with an accompanying piece of legislation with minor amendments passed via a process called reconciliation, appears to be the most likely course of action for Congress at this point. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, with whom Veronica has worked closely during her campaign, have vowed a reform bill would be passed by both houses and sent to the President "within 60 days," which would mean reform may pass into law right around Eric De la Cruz's birthday.

"I want to do this for my brother, Eric. I promised him I would not let other suffer the way he did," stated De La Cruz. "But we all need to keep fighting for this for the thousands of people currently in his position – uninsured and sick – and the millions of Americans affected physically and financially by a lack of health care coverage. And our window of opportunity to get it done is closing. We need to do it now."

De La Cruz is encouraging supporters to call Congress at 202-224-3121 and ask for their Representative's and Senators' offices to demand that they support the plan to pass health care reform via the Senate bill and amendments via reconciliation. She is also urging people to keep demanding the public option. She is encouraging people to visit www.ericslaw.com to find out how to get involved.

While continuing to call upon lawmakers for swift action, De La Cruz also plans to visit with leaders in France to discuss what can be learned from what the World Health Organization calls the world's #1 health care system.



De La Cruz has worked with Senate leaders like Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) to help pass health care reform.