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DE LA CRUZ VISITS CAPITOL HILL TO MEET WITH LAWMAKERS BEFORE HEALTH CARE SUMMIT

On the eve of President Obama's bipartisan health care summit, TV journalist Veronica De La Cruz pushes lawmakers to keep real people front and center in the debate.

WASHINGTON, DC—February 24, 2010—On the day before the President's televised health care summit, Veronica De La Cruz walked the halls of the House and Senate talking to lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to rally support for solutions in the health care reform effort. De La Cruz, who has visited Washington several times advocating for those without coverage, also presented the support she has gathered from thousands of concerned citizens from all over the country.

"Until we get our health care system fixed, I cannot afford to stop," said De La Cruz. "We are so close to making major strides in improving the lives of millions of Americans, and future generations, and my love for my brother will not let me stop now."

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. She has worked closely with several lawmakers in bringing the real cost of inaction on health care to light. On this trip to DC, De La Cruz was eager to meet with the offices of both Democratic and Republican leaders to demand action and an end to excuses and partisan politics.

Among those visited, Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) was impressed with the public support De La Cruz has generated through her advocacy efforts. After discussing Eric's story, and how millions of other lives, like Eric's, are now in the balance, the Senator offered valuable insights and advice. "Senator Schumer's leadership on passing strong health care reform has been unwavering," noted De La Cruz. "But we still need to remind every single member of Congress what is at stake, that real people's lives are being destroyed every day, and he was helpful in not only sharing how we can do that but in ensuring Eric's story and the support he has received will be part of the discussion going forward."



De La Cruz meets with Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) to review Eric's story and the thousands of signatures she has gathered in support of reform.



De La Cruz has continued to work with congressional leaders such as Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV).

De La Cruz also visited the offices of Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY), Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV), Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT), Sen. John Rockefeller and Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL).

"Congresswoman Schakowsky and her chief of staff Cathy Hurwit were very helpful in discussing how reform is likely to move forward and why it is so important. They truly are keeping the lives of every day American's front and center," said De La Cruz.

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.

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