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CPTV Premieres *Critical Condition - Focus on Connecticut*, A Documentary and Town Meeting Health Care Series, on Thursday, June 5 at 8 pm and 8:30 pm, respectively

HARTFORD, Conn. (May 28, 2008) – For some residents in Connecticut, every day is a battle to find a way to afford their medical bills. *Critical Condition - Focus on Connecticut* is a documentary and town meeting series that explores how many people in Connecticut are uninsured or underinsured, and looks at the various efforts and health care reform proposals available to help them gain access to quality, affordable health care in Connecticut. The documentary airs on Thursday, June 5 at 8 pm followed by a live town meeting at 8:30 pm.

According to Producer Ron Ropiak, experts and health care providers across the state told him that with an aging population, a worsening economy, and the number of uninsured and underinsured rising, "It's is a perfect storm."

Another official told Ropiak that many doctors leave the U.S. and Connecticut to assist the needy in other countries, but that there is no need to, because the "The third world exists right here (in Hartford)."

Despite these dire circumstances, Ropiak did speak to officials who think that imminent steps will be taken to alleviate the health care problems, because the nation realizes the situation is critical, and with an approaching election, politicians and others are motivated to enact sweeping reforms.

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Critical Condition - Focus on Connecticut will be immediately followed by a live town meeting, which will be moderated by Stan Simpson, Hartford Courant columnist and WTIC-AM talk show host. Simpson will be joined by expert panelists: Donald Williams, State Senator and President Pro Tempore; Chris Donovan, State Representative and House Majority Leader; Patricia Baker, President and CEO of the Connecticut Health Foundation; Efrain Agosto, Interim Dean and Professor of the New Testament at the Hartford Seminary; Joe Brennan, Senior Vice President of Public Policy for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association; Kevin Lembo, Healthcare Advocate for the State of Connecticut; Jerry Long, President and CEO of the PCC Technology Group; and Stephen Jewett, Director of Corporate Communications at Connecticare.

Viewers are encouraged to e-mail healthcare@cptv.org or call 1-800-842-2788 during the program with questions.

Critical Condition - Focus on Connecticut is a CPTV Connecting Our Communities initiative. Funding is provided by Making Connections, an initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. You can find out more about this program at cptv.org.

CPTV is the public television affiliate of the Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network. It is a locally and nationally recognized producer and presenter of quality public television programming, including UConn Women's Basketball, original documentaries and educational programming. CPTV has the distinction of providing more children's programming than any other public broadcasting station in the country. The Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network also includes WNPR, an affiliate of National Public Radio and Public Radio International. WNPR serves over 190,000 listeners in Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island with news and information. Its award-winning local programming includes *The Faith Middleton Show* and *Front and Center with Ray Hardman*. Overall, the network brings a broad spectrum of public affairs, entertainment,

sports, and educational programming to our viewers, listeners and readers. For more information, visit <http://www.cptv.org>.

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