

# Executive Alert Extra

VOL. XIII, No. 2

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NCPA

MARCH/APRIL, 2007

## Goodman Briefs Congress On Health Care and Retirement Issues

NCPA President John Goodman testified about challenges and opportunities for health care coverage and access before a special roundtable discussion of the newly reconstituted Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

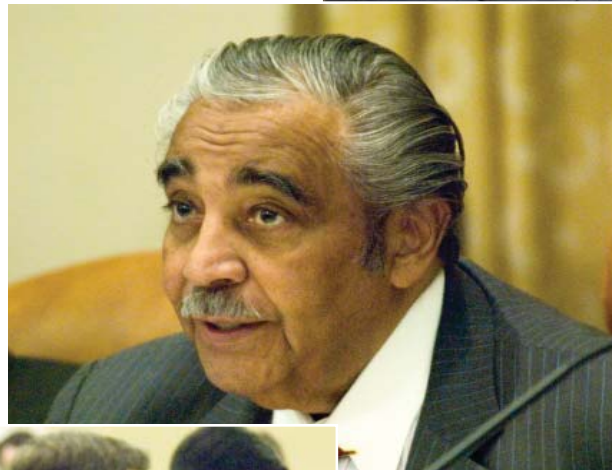
“Busy people are often unaware of how easy it is to spend other people’s money on health care,” noted Goodman. “To control the growth rate of health care spending, someone must choose between health care and other uses of money -- who better to make that decision than the patient?”

Goodman told the committee, chaired by Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA), how consumer-driven health care plans can expand health insurance coverage, and how simple changes in the tax code can provide greater access to insurance for those who do not receive it as a benefit of employment.

In a special hearing of the House Ways &



*Sen. Ted Kennedy (above) of the Senate H.E.L.P. Committee thanks NCPA President John Goodman for his testimony. Goodman also testified before Rep. Charles Rangel's (left) Ways & Means Committee. Kennedy and Rangel chair their Committees.*



Means Committee, chaired by Rep. Charlie Rangel (D-NY), Goodman detailed the many

challenges modern families face as a result of outdated public policies.

Goodman noted that the basic structure of tax, labor and employee benefits law and other institutions were formulated 50 or 60 years ago by policymakers who made assumptions that no longer describe our world.

“Institutions designed for the 20th century are unworkable and inadequate for a 21st century workforce,” said Goodman. Goodman suggested several reforms that are necessary to modernize our institutions, including enabling employee benefits to be personally owned and portable — traveling with the worker from job to job.



*Left to right: Dr. Goodman, Urban Institute Senior Fellow Eugene Steuerle, Yale Professor Jacob Hacker and CBO Director Peter Orszag testifying before Ways & Means.*

## Krauthammer Headlines First 2007 Summers Distinguished Lecture

Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Charles Krauthammer (*right*) was featured speaker at the inaugural edition of the 2007 Hatton W. Sumners Distinguished Lecture Series. Krauthammer said that Democrats want out of the war in Iraq without actually cutting off funds for the troops.

The House is pursuing a method, he noted, developed by Rep. John Murtha (D-PA) to impose a conditional cutoff of funds, ostensibly in the name of protecting the troops.

“Murtha is not disingenuous enough to have concealed the real motive for these ostensibly pro-readiness, pro-troops conditions, said Krauthammer. He has chosen conditions he knows are impossible to meet in order to make the continued prosecution of the war difficult, if not impossible, for the commanders in the field.”



## Minter, Heck Kick Off NCPA's 2007 Economic Policy Series

Investigative journalist Richard Minter (*right*) and Gene Heck, author of “Building Prosperity: Why Ronald Reagan and the Founding Fathers Were Right on the Economy,” discussed U.S. economic and foreign policy in their inaugural speeches at the NCPA Economic Policy Forums. The Forums are held at the Belo Mansion in Dallas.



Richard Minter (*above*), author of “Disinformation : 22 Media Myths That Undermine the War on Terror.” NCPA board members Mike Baggett (*left*) and Don Buchholz (*center*) discuss policy with NCPA Distinguished Fellow Bob Mc Teer (*right*).

**For More Information About Upcoming NCPA Events—See page 4**

## McTeer and Former Education Secretary Tour Texas to Promote School Choice

Former Education Secretary Rod Paige joined NCPA Distinguished Fellow Robert McTeer, leaders from the Hispanic Council for Reform and Educational Options (H-CREO) and the Milton and Rose D. Friedman Foundation to unveil a new study quantifying both the short and long-term costs of failing to reform Texas schools.

Each year's class of high school dropouts in Texas will cost the state's taxpayers about \$377 million per year over their lifetimes, according to the study, which was prepared by Friedman Fellow Brian Gottlob. In addition, the study found that a modest school choice program would reduce public school dropout rates and save taxpayers up to \$53 million a year in associated costs.



NCPA Distinguished Fellow Bob McTeer (above) and former Education Secretary Rod Paige (left) spoke at the conference in Austin to introduce a Friedman Foundation study explaining the social and economic costs of school dropouts in Texas.

## Goodman Keynotes World Congress; Herrick Discusses Health Reform

NCPA President John Goodman (right) presented a keynote address to World Congress' 2nd Annual Health and Human Capital Management Congress for Employers. Goodman explained the potential Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) have for employers and their employees.

Goodman also took part in a congressional briefing on President Bush's health reform proposal hosted by the Heritage Foundation. Goodman told the assembled congressional staff that Bush's proposals "will remove some of the distortions that have plagued the health insurance market for nearly 60 years."

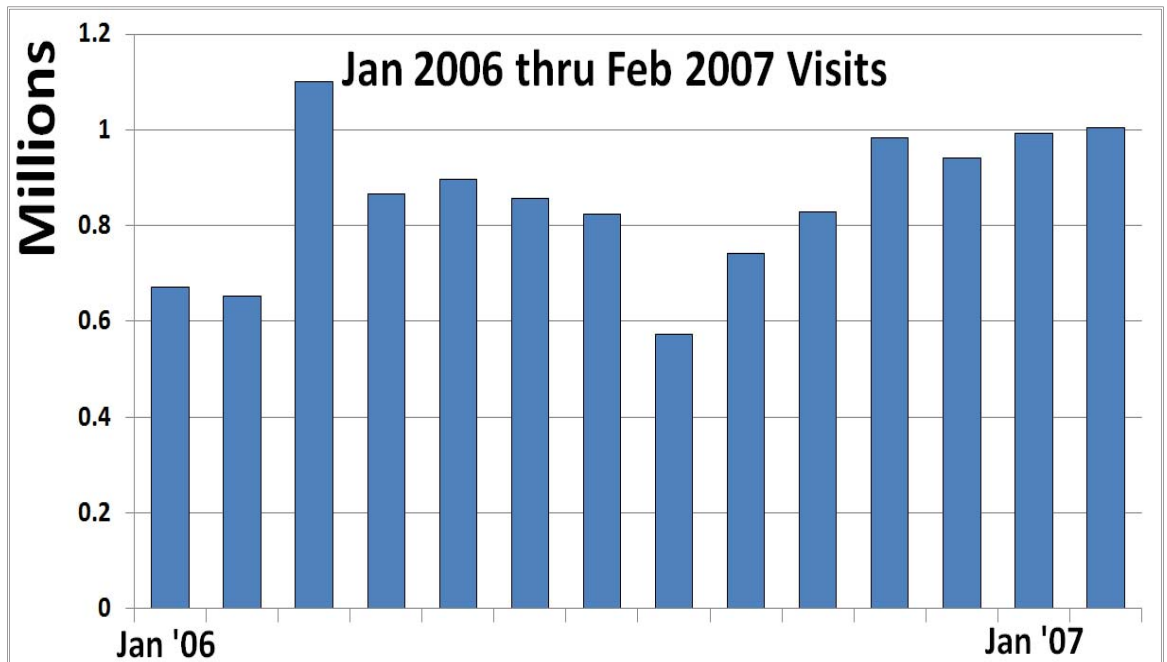


NCPA Senior Fellow Devon Herrick (left) took part in a panel discussion on the regulatory agenda for HSAs at the 3rd Annual Health Savings Account Summit sponsored by Financial Research Associates (FRA). Herrick appeared alongside former White House health advisory Roy Ramthun and former Treasury official William Sweetnam. Previously, FRA hosted the trio and former Treasury official Kevin Knopf for a special online briefing on HSA regulations.

## NCPA.org Experiences Record Growth in Traffic

The NCPA's Web sites continue to be a favored resource for Internet users looking for free-market policy news and research. Over the past four months, our sites have averaged approximately 1 million visitors per month.

Helping to drive traffic to our sites, we have recently launched two new blogs. John Goodman's Health Blog provides a forum for NCPA's president to comment on health care news and the latest research. Bob McTeer's Blog features insights on taxes, economy, monetary policy and education.



### Executive Alert Extra<sup>®</sup>

Editor.....Matt Heinritz

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### Events Schedule

#### HATTON W. SUMNERS DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

March 20, 2007

**Rt. Hon. David Davis**

Shadow Home Secretary and Member of the British Parliament

April 18, 2007

**Gen. Tommy Franks**

Retired General in the United States Army, previously serving as the Commander-in-Chief of United States Central Command



*Gen. Tommy Franks*

#### NCPA ECONOMIC POLICY FORUM & AUTHOR SERIES

April 4, 2007

Charles Murray, Resident Fellow, AEI

May 24, 2007

Michael Barone, Senior Writer, U.S. News & World Report

September 25, 2007

Linda Chavez, Chair, Center for Equal Opportunity, syndicated columnist and political analyst.



*Michael Barone*