

# Out of Reach

By Sharon C. Goodson

The cost of insurance has long been too expensive and out of reach for millions of Americans. Low-wage workers, workers with limited access or no health care benefits, the self-employed, those who can't afford to pay a company offered premium, as well as, those who loss insurance coverage due to losing a job, find themselves in the precarious situation of being uninsured in America ([www.Kff.org](http://www.Kff.org)).

In order to maintain a global world class economy, we must face the fact that a healthy work force is an investment in this country's greatest resource - its people. Strong healthy families build and grow strong healthy communities while stimulating the tax-base of their local economies as workers, entrepreneurs, homeowners, consumers and tax paying citizens. When we fail to provide individuals and families access to affordable healthcare, we fail as a nation. Families who live in poverty and those hardest hit by the most recent economic recession struggle to meet their most basic needs and often that means living uninsured. Affordable health care is key to helping these individuals become self-sufficient and live healthy stable lives independent of public programs.

