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Petition attracts million-plus who oppose gov't healthcare

Written by Jim Brown

A large grassroots healthcare campaign has generated support from more than a million Americans.

A week from today, 30 boxes will be delivered to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-California) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nevada) containing more than 1.2 million signatures for a petition opposing a government takeover of healthcare.

The "Free Our Health Care Now" petition circulated by the National Center for Policy Analysis is being billed as potentially the largest policy petition ever delivered to Capitol Hill. Petition signers are urging Congress "to stop any increased role of the government in my health care decision" and "to protect my right to choose my own doctors and hospitals without delay or denial, to obtain care that is patient-based, and to have health insurance that is personal,

portable and best suits my needs."

NCPA president Dr. John Goodman says Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi are feeling the heat from voters.

"The voters overwhelmingly think that these plans are going to raise their costs and lower their quality, and give them less access to care," Goodman explains. "So people are really angry, they're emotional -- and [there's] no question that members of Congress are responding to that. Still, I can't tell you that the public plan is going to go away."

Goodman says if bad healthcare legislation is going to be stopped it has to be done at the grassroots level at town hall meetings and in letters, calls, and emails to members of Congress. According to the petition, such legislation moves America "closer to a government-run system like Canada or Britain."