



# Wal-Mart CEO Previews Health Benefits Improvements

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Bentonville, Ark. -- Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. CEO Lee Scott, in remarks to be delivered at the National Governors Association Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C. this Sunday, will offer a preview of some of the major health benefits improvements the company will be announcing in the months ahead. Mr. Scott also will call for a new commitment from leaders in government and business to help solve the health care challenges facing America's employers and working families. His remarks come on the heels of nine states delivering setbacks to legislation similar to the type of employer mandate the Maryland General Assembly made law in January.

"During our most recent open enrollment period, we signed up more than 70,000 associates who didn't have our health insurance before. Fifty thousand of those working men and women were previously uninsured. And this is just a start," Wal-Mart CEO Lee Scott will say. "In the weeks ahead, we're going to take significant steps to make our health benefits even more affordable and accessible to the working families we employ."

As a preview to a larger and more comprehensive package of health benefit improvements to be announced over the coming months, Mr. Scott will highlight select initiatives to make Wal-Mart's health insurance more accessible and affordable, including:

- Significantly reducing the waiting period for part-time associates;
- Designating the children of part-time Wal-Mart associates eligible for health coverage as soon as their parent becomes eligible (previously, part-time associates could become eligible only for individual coverage); and
- Expanding the availability of the lowest cost Value Plan option -- \$11 per month for individuals and 30 cents more per day for children -- to at least half of all associates by next year.

Mr. Scott will also announce that the company will contract with outside firms to build and operate more than 50 new health clinics in Wal-Mart stores nationwide this year alone. Currently, Wal-Mart has a total of nine pilot clinics in stores in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Florida and Indiana.

In addition to the state legislatures that have recently dealt setbacks to employer health care mandates, dozens of editorial boards and health care experts across the country have denounced such bills as bad public policy. In his speech, Scott will call for government and business to work together for real solutions to the health care challenges facing the country.

“The soaring cost of health care in America cannot be sustained over the long term by any business that offers health benefits to its employees. And every day that we don’t work together to solve this challenge is a day that our country becomes even less competitive in the global economy,” Mr. Scott will add. “We have to solve the health care challenges facing America. We have to do it together. And we have to start now.”

The speech, which will be available in its entirety on [www.walmartfacts.com](http://www.walmartfacts.com) after delivery, is scheduled for Sunday, February 26 at 3:00 p.m. EST.

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