



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

For More Information:

Holly Lang (404) 512-8808

Beth Malone (404) 525-1085

Free October Screenings of *Do No Harm* in Atlanta and Albany

Documentary details high cost of health care for uninsured at Phoebe Putney and beyond

ATLANTA - Georgia Watch, the state's leading consumer advocacy group, is hosting two **free** screenings of *Do No Harm*, a documentary that chronicles the actions of two reluctant whistleblowers who endured relentless attacks as they sought to bring national attention to the real cost of health care for the uninsured at Albany's Phoebe Putney Hospital. The film is directed by Rebecca Schanberg, and the screenings will take place October 13 at Albany's Merry Acres Event Center and on October 14 in Atlanta at the Landmark Midtown Art Cinema.

"Despite the Albany area's high poverty level – 30 percent of all residents living below the federal mark - health care costs are cited as being among the highest in the country," said **Georgia Watch Hospital Accountability Project Manager Holly Lang**. "Issues of healthcare affordability affect all Georgians and all Americans, just as *Do No Harm* depicts."

For the past six years, Georgia Watch has authored reports that evaluate the financial well-being of the some of the state's safety net hospitals, with a primary focus on access to affordable health care for the state's uninsured, underinsured and low-income consumers. In 2007, Georgia Watch released *A Crisis of Affordable Care: Phoebe Putney*, which, akin to *Do No Harm*, highlights large compensation packages enjoyed by hospital executives, over-charging of the uninsured and a lack of free or low-cost community benefits which the hospital is required to provide as part of its tax-exempt status.

"As debates continue to play out at our nation's capital as to how all Americans can receive health care coverage, to us, the issue is more about affordability - no matter who is signing the check for a hospital bill, the charge is far too high," **Lang said**.

Though mark-ups are common in today's health care market, charges for services, of which Phoebe Putney is the only area provider, are higher than the national average. For example, in 2007, it only cost Phoebe Putney \$3 for a technician to draw blood, though the hospital charged patients almost \$11. That same year, cardiac catheterizations only cost Phoebe Putney about \$1,200, yet they charge patients more than \$4,000.

The screenings of *Do No Harm* will be followed by panel discussions with the cast and crew of the film, along with members of the health care community. Georgia Watch will moderate.

For information or to RSVP to these events visit www.donoharmdoc.com or www.georgiawatch.org.

###

Founded in 2002, Georgia Watch is a nonprofit, nonpartisan 501-(c)(3) watchdog group focusing on consumer education and research in the areas of health care, insurance, identity theft, consumer energy issues and personal finance. Visit www.GeorgiaWatch.org for more information.