

## Edwards proposes national health coverage

by UPI

GRINNELL, Iowa - Former Sen. John Edwards told potential voters in Iowa he would push for healthcare coverage for all Americans if elected president.

The candidate for the 2008 Democratic nomination spoke about his proposed healthcare efforts during a three-day campaigning swing through Iowa.

He also criticized U.S. health insurance companies, The Des Moines Register reported Sunday. The former North Carolina senator, who also ran in 2004 before becoming John Kerry's running mate, said insurance companies only push medical costs higher and place unfair limits on available healthcare.

"We need a healthcare system where individuals are not stuck trying to take on the insurance companies by themselves," Edwards said. "Because you can't win .... They've got all of the money. They've got all of the resources. They've got all of the power."

Edwards said under his plan, citizens would be able to choose healthcare plans from Medicare or private insurers.

The Register said Edwards' proposal also includes instituting profit and administrative cost limits on insurers so more insurance premiums go directly to healthcare.

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