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Charlotte, N.C. Small Business Owner Visits Capitol Hill

Health Care, Short-Term Lending on Small Business Agenda

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (Sept. 24, 2009) – Ed Sieber, owner of the [Glass Doctor of Charlotte](#) franchise, met with members of the North Carolina congressional delegation about healthcare reform and other issues important to the franchise industry during the [International Franchise Association \(IFA\)](#) 10th Annual [Public Affairs Conference](#) in Washington D.C. Sept. 14-15.

Sieber discussed the impact of healthcare reform on small businesses across the country with U.S. Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) and U.S. Senator Kay Hagen (D-NC).



“We urged our congressional leaders to focus on reducing the cost of health care, improving the quality and efficiency of the health care system, and making health insurance affordable for businesses to offer to their employees,” said Sieber, who is the *Glass Doctor* national [Franchisee of the Year](#). “There are more than 900,000 franchised businesses responsible for 21 million jobs and \$2.3 trillion of private-sector output in the U.S. We will have a great impact on the economic recovery, so we appreciate having our voices heard.”

Sieber and *Glass Doctor* President Mark Dawson, along with more than 450 other business owners and franchising executives, met with the staff of the senators and representatives from their respective states. In addition to health care, Sieber and other franchise owners are concerned about the state of short-term financing.

“The government has offered some limited short-term loans through the Small Business Administration, but to really jump-start the economy we feel Congress should promote more lending so that we can offer more jobs and invest in our businesses,” Sieber said. “A 40 percent reduction in franchise lending is expected this year, which would result in the loss of an estimated 200,000 direct and indirect jobs.”

Sieber’s business was directly affected by the stagnant economy earlier this year. He closed one of his three Charlotte-area glass shops in January. Now business is slowly returning, but Sieber does not have the cash to add glass service technicians and his business does not qualify for a short-term loan.

“Ultimately if the short-term loan and revolving credit logjam is broken and meaningful health care reform is enacted, then the consumer will benefit the most,” Sieber said. “Small businesses like ours will be able to expand our products and services, and then we can hire

more people. Hopefully both parties in Congress will work together so that the economic recovery will take off.”

About Glass Doctor®:

Glass Doctor is the largest chain of full-service glass franchises in the nation. From windows to windshields to storefronts, Glass Doctor can handle any glass need. *Glass Doctor* also offers custom glass services, such as tub and shower enclosures, entry door glass and mirrors. Established in 1962 with one shop in Seattle, Wash., today *Glass Doctor* offers complete glass repair, replacement and services to the residential, automotive, and commercial markets at more than 375 locations in the United States. Today there are more than 165 *Glass Doctor* franchise owners across the United States and Canada. For further information or to find the location nearest you, visit www.glassdoctor.com.

About The Dwyer Group, Inc.:

Based in Waco, Texas, The Dwyer Group, Inc. is a holding company of six service-based franchise companies – Mr. Appliance®, Mr. Electric®, Mr. Rooter®, Aire Serv Heating and Air Conditioning®, Glass Doctor® and Rainbow International Restoration and Cleaning®. The franchise network of The Dwyer Group, Inc. consists of more than 1,400 independently owned and operated franchises. Each company provides high-quality residential and light commercial services to customers worldwide. The Dwyer Group, Inc. is a portfolio company of the Riverside Company. For more information, visit www.dwyergroup.com.

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