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DOCTOR SAYS UNIVERSAL COVERAGE MAY HURT QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE:

Contreras Wary of Government Involvement in Medical Decisions

WHAT: Congress, at President Barack Obama's urging, is considering a sweeping overhaul of health care that would allow all Americans access to health insurance.

Internationally renowned physician Dr. Francisco Contreras says that universal coverage may result in mediocre care, as is the case in countries such as Mexico, where the government helps subsidize health care.

WHO: **Dr. Francisco Contreras**, director, president and chairman of Oasis of Hope Hospital in Playas de Tijuana, Mexico. He is the co-author of the book, "**Hope, Medicine & Healing**." He recently appeared on CNN, MSNBC and the Fox News Channel, discussing Daniel Hauser, the Minnesota teen who initially fled the state to avoid court-ordered chemotherapy.

WHEN/WHERE: By appointment via telephone or in studio in California

DETAILS: Dr. Francisco Contreras has represented Mexico on a mission to Slovakia and worked with the Japanese Medical Association. In the United States, he has been honored by the Georgia House of Representatives for his work fighting cancer. His thoughts on health care reform:

- People who can't pay out-of-pocket would receive only what is approved by the insurance companies or the government. They wouldn't have access to advanced medicine and the newest drugs.
- Much like countries with socialized medicine, the government would be the arbiter of what's appropriate treatment in many cases. Efficiency and cost would be of primary concern, not compassion.

NOTE: For more information or to schedule an interview with Dr. Francisco Contreras, contact Steve Yount of A. Larry Ross Communications at 972.267.1111 or steve@alarryross.com.