



June 23, 2009

Wegmans official testifies before House committee

Sean Dobbin
Staff writer

Paul S. Speranza Jr., vice chairman, general counsel and secretary for Wegmans Food Markets, on Tuesday testified before the House of Representatives' Education and Labor Committee on the issue of health care reform.

Testifying on behalf of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, of which he is a former chairman, Speranza discussed the programs that the Rochester Business Alliance's Healthcare Initiative has developed, including the implementation of six sigma principles in local hospitals and Wegmans' community-wide "eat well, live well" challenge.

"Our goal is to be the healthiest community in America," said Speranza. "We invite each (House) committee member and President Obama to come to Rochester and learn about what we have done."

Speranza, who heads the RBA initiative, advised against rushing to pass legislation or introducing new taxes to pay for health care reform, and said that plans to create a government-run insurance plan were unfair to private insurers.

Instead, he recommended other ways to reduce health care costs including medical liability reform, inducements to employers to create wellness programs and options allowing individuals and the self-employed to purchase health insurance with pre-tax dollars.

SDOBBIN@DemocratandChronicle.com