

SUPPORT IS STRONG FOR COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM

Reforming Health Care Will Contribute to Economic Recovery

“This time, there is no debate about whether all Americans should have quality, affordable health care -- the only question is, how?”

– President Barack Obama, 3/5/09

While Congress continues discussions on how to reform America’s health care system, the American public and stakeholders have expressed strong support for enacting comprehensive health care reform this year, acknowledging that it is essential to helping Americans cope with the rising cost of health care and getting our nation back on the road to economic recovery.

Majority of Americans Support Urgent Action on Health Care Reform

“The country’s overall economic problems have not dampened their interest in pursuing health care reform: **a solid majority of the public (59%) believes health care reform is more important than ever.**” – Kaiser Health Tracking Poll, April 2009

Stakeholders Call for Comprehensive Health Care Reform This Year

“‘We should seek to ensure coverage for all,’ the [Health Reform Dialogue] group concluded after six months of private, professionally facilitated negotiations. The results are noteworthy because it is the first time that such a varied mix of special interests -- “strange bedfellows,” in the words of one participant -- have coalesced around significant changes to the U.S. health system. The signers include the American Medical Association, the National Federation of Independent Business, two hospital groups, AARP and the liberal consumer advocacy group Families USA.” – Washington Post, 3/28/09

“The AMA believes that we must enact comprehensive health system reform that will cover the uninsured, improve our healthcare delivery system, and place affordable, high quality care within reach of all Americans.” – American Medical Association, 4/13/09

“‘We cannot build a strong nation on the backs of sick people,’ said Dr Akhter, Executive Director. ‘Time is not on our side,’ continued Dr. Akhter, emphasizing the urgency of passing meaningful healthcare reform legislation this year.” – National Medical Association, 3/5/09

“The health plan community is united in support of comprehensive health care reform that ensures all American have high quality, affordable health care.” – America’s Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) and Blue Cross Blue Shield, 3/24/09

“As our nation confronts the most serious economic challenges in decades, the need to ensure that every American has access to affordable, quality health care has never been more urgent...there is a growing consensus across the political spectrum that action must be taken this year to address this important issue.” – Divided We Fail [AARP, BRT, NFIB, and SEIU], 4/3/09

“PhRMA’s message throughout the healthcare reform debate is one that has been echoed by many other stakeholders, including the diverse group of organizations participating in the Health Reform Dialogue (HRD): all Americans should be able to access high-quality and affordable healthcare coverage.” – PhRMA, 3/27/09