

Event Started: 1/29/2008 4:50:04 PM ET  
Please stand by for real-time relay captioning.

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The conference call will begin shortly.

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Thank you for joining the Obama disability policy conference call, it will begin in a few minutes, live captioning can be found on the campaigns website at [www.barakobama.com/issues/disabilities](http://www.barakobama.com/issues/disabilities).

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The conference will begin shortly.

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Thank you for joining the Obama Disability Policy Conference call. Again, the conference call will begin shortly.

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Thank you for joining the Obama Disability Policy Conference call. Live captioning can be found on the campaign's website at [www.barakobama.com/issues/disabilities](http://www.barakobama.com/issues/disabilities)

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Hello. Good afternoon everyone. I apologize for the technical difficulties. I apologize, we will begin the conference call in just a moment. If you need live captioning you can find it at the campaign's website, at [www.barackobama.com/issues/disabilities](http://www.barackobama.com/issues/disabilities)

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We are having difficulties, will start soon. Thank you for participating. My name is Seth Harris, I am one of the co-chairs for the disability committee. I will be joined by Stan Klein and Marcie Roth, member of the committee, and the national director of the national spinal cord injury association.

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The Disability Policy Committee is a diverse group of people with disabilities, parents and other relatives of people with disabilities, Scholars, lawyers, who represent people with disabilities, experts in technology, a variety of other fields related to disability.

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The Obama campaign is a grass roots effort and our policy committees are part of that grass-roots effort. Through our committee, people from the disability community have played a substantial role in crafting Senator Obama's Plan to Empower Americans with Disabilities.

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I encourage everyone to read senator Obama's plan. You can find the plan and the video on senator Obama's disability issues page at

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[www.barackobama.com/issues/disabilities](http://www.barackobama.com/issues/disabilities)

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Or by going to the campaign's website, [www.barackobama.com](http://www.barackobama.com), clicking on issues and then disabilities.

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Ladies and gentlemen, can you hear my voice?

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Yes.

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Yes.

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Unfortunately I have several hundred people, maybe more, participating in today's conference call. One of the reasons, by the way, we are having difficulties; the call is so oversubscribed we have jammed up the lines on the conference call system. I apologize for the struggles we are experiencing, but thank you very much for your patience. The

only other bad thing about the size of the conference call is we're not going to be able to have an open discussion with everyone on the call.

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You can hear us, except for the short period of time a minute ago, we will not be able to hear you, and you will not be able to hear each other. But let me tell you this conference call is the beginning of our dialogue with you, not the end. You can join the discussion with the disability policy committee, go to the page, [www.barackobama.com/issues/disabilities](http://www.barackobama.com/issues/disabilities), and click on the link for the Obama disabilities policy discussion. When you get to that page, click on join group. The Obama disability discussion group will be led by the disability policy committee, including people from around the country who share your concerns. I strongly encourage you to join the discussion. The agenda today is very straight forward, two speakers, Representative Janice Schakowsky, from Illinois, the national co-chair, and distinguished member of the House of Representatives, and then from Senator Obama's former chief counsel and the father of a child with disabilities.

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There's a link to the page that allows you to present your ideas, and many of you submitted ideas, comments, questions, actually dozens and dozens of you did that. We will get to as many of those as we can. Okay, that's all the preliminaries for this conference call. Let's go on to our first speaker. She's a five-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. policy steering committee, co-chair of the Obama for America campaign. It is my honor to introduce you to Congresswoman Janice Schakowsky.

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Representative Janice Schakowsky: It's an honor to take part in the call. I thank everybody for being on the call today. I thank you for your patience and for being here. I am also a member of the energy and commerce committee dealing with a host of issues of importance to you, from mental health parity, community choice act, Medicare. Unfortunately we won't be able to answer all your questions, touch on every area of concern. I also want to emphasize I hope you will feel free to follow-up with the campaign or me, if you have suggestions, concerns, ideas we don't get to.

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In my capacity as national co-care chair of the America for Obama campaign I am delighted you took time for today's call. There's a huge stake in the November election. Your participation is vital absolutely critical in electing the right candidate and I believe with all my heart it's Barack Obama. This campaign is a reflection of the way Obama will lead America. Not a game of subtraction, this is focused on the politics of addition and inclusion. Senator Obama rejects the practices -- and I believe the disability community has an important champion in Barack Obama. He understands the barriers deprive people with disabilities of a full opportunity to get the education you need, the jobs you deserve, affordable housing in your communities, travel across town or across the world.

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Barack Obama understands the destructive consequences of stereotypes, those encountered every day by people with disabilities. Barack Obama is a former civil rights attorney, he fought against this throughout his career, knows how important it is not just to pass laws, but to follow the laws up with enforcement, how important it is to appoint judges who care about disability right and will rule in a way to expand rights, not take them away.

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He believes we can overcome the barriers and discrimination, building an America every person can contribute to the full measure of American citizenship. You can read more about Barack Obama's plan to empower Americans with disability by going to the

website at [www.barackobama.com](http://www.barackobama.com). First, Barack Obama is fully committed to providing Americans with disabilities with the educational opportunities they need to succeed, supports fully funding the Americans with disabilities education act, IDEA universal screening of newborns, early intervention and dramatically increased college opportunities for students with disabilities.

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Second, he will promote equal opportunity, supports the ADA restoration act, to overturn the Supreme Court decisions that deprived millions of people with disabilities of the protections of the Americans with disabilities act. Most important perhaps, will fight to assure high quality affordable healthcare for every American, regardless of preexisting condition or health status. His health plan will prohibit harsh arbitrary or lifetime limits, on services that deny access to care. He strongly supports mental health parity. He will work to increase the employment rate of Americans with disabilities, the hiring rate of federal employees, and launch comprehensive strategy to increase other employers hiring. He will support entrepreneurs with disability and their small businesses and make sure people with disabilities and their parents and caregivers have the workplace flexibility they need without losing their jobs. Stick with me, I am almost done.

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Finally Barack Obama is committed to supporting independence, community based living for Americans with disabilities. He supports the Community Choice Act, the CLASS Act, so people with disabilities can live independent and productive lives. He wants to fix the shortage of direct care workers, increase their shamefully low wage and safeguard the most fundamental right, tougher enforcement of voting rights laws. I am so glad you took the time to join us on this call. You can read the whole plan, learn more, join me in supporting Barack Obama, someone who truly has the ability to bring people together and win the goals you have been fighting to win. Thanks.

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Thank you very much, Congress woman, for your leadership in the House of Representatives.

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I will introduce Mike Strautmanis, Mike has a unique, personal perspective on the Obamas, and it's my great honor to introduce him.

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Thank you, Congresswoman, it's an honor to join you on the call. You have been a friend, supporter, and advocate. I remember the story of you wearing your Obama button to the White House many years ago and Barack Obama certainly appreciates your support. I have been working with Barack Obama in the Senate since he joined the Senate as chief counsel. I have been a friend of he and Michele over 15 years now. The reason I am on this call, I wanted to give you all on the call a sense of who Barack Obama is through my story.

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Barack Obama and I met, and Michele, when I talked my way into a job to be Michele's paralegal, just about before I was going to graduate from college. Since then we have all been friends. I am married, have three children, one of whom has autism, on the autism spectrum, has autism spectrum disorder. The struggles I have had with my son as we worked through the healthcare system, education system, through all the services in our community, trying to find out what's happening with him, how we can help him, Barack Obama and Michele have been right there with us. I worked on judicial issues, never focused in the disability area. I always wondered why is my child special, because of my friendship with the Obama's, proximity, why should I get special treatment. But one thing I found as I worked with my wife, dealing with this, the lack of leadership at the federal level from the administration in this area. Too many of our families, too many of

our children, too many of us who are people with disabilities and those who love, and care for those with disabilities are left on their own. I remember Bush called this the ownership society. Really, what it's become is, I believe, you are on your own society. I felt that as far back as this moment I had a responsibility to advocate for, work for, not only my child, but all of us, not only the other children dealing with the autism spectrum disorder, but the adults, the village, the medical community, the educators, everybody that is pulling together, staying up late, on the Internet trying to find answers, reaching into their pockets, making sacrifices for other necessities to try to give each other what we need.

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I felt that since we had this moment, I have this opportunity, I would leave the Senate and dedicate my life to this issue. Since then I have been traveling around the country, learned so much, people on the phone, others who didn't get a chance to join today, about, again, the deep issues that we're facing. The Congresswoman is right. Barack Obama is right on the issues, but I think more than that, his heart's in the right place. He's going to be an advocate for all of us, a champion for all of us, and I am looking forward to working with you to make sure we are the best presidential campaign we can be, and hopefully, if we have the opportunity to lead this country, that Barack Obama is the best president he can be for everyone, including those with disabilities. Thank you.

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Thanks a lot Mike, thank you very much. I will tell you our conference call lines are jammed. There are a lot of people trying to get in on the conference call. I am grateful all of you were able to get through. We will find a way to include all the other folks in the conference call by circulating a transcript, getting information out. If you know anyone who tried to get in, was not able to do it, please give them our deepest apologies, we were way way way over subscribed on this call. The outpouring of interest, we weren't prepared. Let your friends and colleagues know we are so sorry they weren't able to hear the call. We will work on putting together a transcript of this conference call right now on the campaign website. Right now there is live captioning of this conference call, you can find it at [www.barackobama.com/issues/disabilities](http://www.barackobama.com/issues/disabilities), there will be a link there to find the live captioning. I hope for those of you, if you know people who couldn't get on the call, they can check the live captioning, although we want to make it available principally for those who need access.

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We invite you to submit questions through the website, and we will try to answer a few of those questions, but you submitted so many questions, comments, that there's simply no way we can answer them all. Like the conference call, the questions and answers were way oversubscribed, please join the disability discussion group by going to the website's disability issues page. I will give it to you again,  
[www.barackobama.com/issues/disabilities](http://www.barackobama.com/issues/disabilities)

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Click on the link for Obama policy discussion. Then click on join group. We will try to post the questions that we're not able to answer during the conference call on the blog for that group, try to discuss those questions there. I want to make a very important point. The disability policy committee doesn't want to suggest we have all the answers to all the questions. We need your help in addressing some of the most difficult questions for people in the disability community. Please go to the website, join the group, join the discussion.

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In the meantime we are going to answer some of the questions you submitted. Marcie Roth and I will answer, in the interest of full disclosure we edited some of the questions

to make them shorter to get to as many questions as possible. Stan Klein has the first question.

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Stan Klein: This came from several people. We phrased it the following way. What's the difference between Barack Obama's plan to empower Americans with disabilities and Hillary Clinton's?

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Marcie Roth: Let me start by saying, don't rely on my comparison of Barack Obama's Plan with Senator Clinton's positions -- I encourage you to read Senator Obama's plan by going to [www.barackobama.com/issues/disabilities](http://www.barackobama.com/issues/disabilities), click on the issues tab. You will see disabilities is listed as one of the most important sets of issues he addressed. Finding Senator Clinton's policy is a little harder. Go to the website, over to the right-hand side, in a box, listed as a subissue of healthcare plan. You can also go to American Association of People with Disabilities website, [www.aapd-dc.org](http://www.aapd-dc.org) both campaigns answered a survey, don't be shy double checking what I am about to tell you.

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Let me highlight some of the important differences between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton on disability issues. The first, Barack Obama promised to sign the international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and to fight for ratification in the Senate. Hillary Clinton has not. Barack Obama supports the Community Choice Act, those receiving support from Medicaid can use for community based rather than nursing homes, Disability leaders recently raised concerns that the Community Choice Act is not included in Hillary Clinton's long-term care reform package.

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Barack Obama supports the CLASS Act, a new system to help those with disabilities pay for care, assistive technology and other things that make community based independent living possible. Hillary Clinton does not support the CLASS Act. With all due respect to Hillary Clinton's experience -- it wasn't until the last year in office that President Clinton signed the executive order to increase the number of federal employees with disabilities. There is no evidence Hillary Clinton did anything to increase the number of employees with disabilities during her husband's administration. Barack Obama has pledged to increase by the number of federal employees with disabilities by 100,000 in his first term in office.

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Fifth, and this may be the most important difference, Barack Obama has Promised to appoint an assistant to the President. for Disability Policy Michele has been outspoken with her father's experience with multiple sclerosis. Hillary Clinton has not promised senior level representation for Americans with disabilities in the White House, and Senator Obama has two senior advisors who are parents of children with disabilities — you've already heard from Mike Strautmanis, who is one of those advisors. By contrast, Hillary Clinton has not promised senior level representation for people with disabilities in the White House and it is unclear whether anyone in her inner circle has personal experience with disability.

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Seth Harris: Thanks, Marcie. Next question comes from Deborah, in Phoenix Arizona. We got a lot of questions like it. The nation must be educated better about mental illness and the stigma associated with these types of disabilities. Please clarify what would be done to better serve the population living with these afflictions.

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Stan Klein: First elect a president who must rid our society of all its prejudices, including prejudices against people with mental illness, bringing people together rather than dividing them. Senator Obama has cosponsored the bi-partisan, Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addictions Equity Act of 2007. Mental health parity, as it's called, means

treatment for people with serious mental illness must be covered under health insurance programs on the same terms as other illnesses and conditions. That's the basis of that Wellstone Act. Barack Obama will fight for mental health parity when elected president. It isn't a new issue for him. As a state senator in Illinois he helped pass a mental health parity bill. Today one in five American families is affected by mental illness, as well as thousands of soldiers returning from Iraq. For veterans, Obama will improve mental healthcare at every level, recruitment, more professionals, more support to families, and make PTSD benefits fairer. Every American with mental illness needs support and care, none should be subjected to stigma, as Deborah put it. We owe a particular debt to our returning veterans, facing the result of combat to body and mind. All veterans will get the healing healthcare they need, rather than suffer the stigma.

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This question comes from Tracy in Winfield, Alabama. A long question, but Tracy raises a question raised by a lot of parents of children disabilities. I am a parent of two children, my 12 year old son has a disability. When he was 14 months old, we began participating in segregated state-run programs. He entered kindergarten, we talked the school into letting him receive education in general education class with peers. They were not convinced it would work but agreed to let him try. My son may not have mastered the curriculum that year, but he thrived in the setting. Since then the school began educating all the students in my son's grade together, those with disabilities and those without. We raised both our children to live their dreams and we live our life as any other family. We do not participate in anything that is segregated. I share Senator Obama's vision of unity and equality for all people. I believe in accessibility and opportunity for all. I have a concern. I understand Senator Obama's entire desire to fully fund the Americans with disabilities act. My opinion may upset many, I am not sure that is the right approach. I have seen too many agencies make a mess with the money they already have, to use it to fund more segregation and try to fix people. I would be afraid the same might happen with increasing funding for IDEA. I wish Senator Obama would take the 'all' approach. If educators try to meet the needs of all students and if educators get more creative with teaching to all learning styles and abilities. I believe education will improve, all students will learn. Can we do it for all?

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Marcie Roth: This is Marcie. Tracy, first, let me congratulate you on your advocacy for your children. Senator Obama agrees completely that segregation is wrong for people with disabilities, just as it's wrong for African Americans and other groups in American society. He's been reminding us we are one America, we must come together to build a better society for everyone. It's important to understand full funding of the individuals with disabilities education act supports inclusion, not segregation. That's why Barack Obama supports full funding and is consistently voting to increase funding for special education programs. Senator Obama said full funding of IDEA is one of his top educational priorities. Under IDEA children with disabilities are entitled to a free and appropriate public education. When Congress originally passed this law, they promised to shoulder 40% of each state's excess cost of educating children with disabilities. Congress has never come close to fulfilling that promise. Now the federal government provides 17% of each state's excess funding. That's less than half of what was promised. As a result children are being short-changed and parents are forced to fight with cash-strapped school districts to get their children the free and appropriate education the IDEA promises. Fully funding the IDEA will help to provide students with disabilities the

public education they have a right to, and in the overwhelming majority of cases the education must be provided in integrated settings in public schools. That's the ALL approach Tracy advocates.

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Senator Obama also agrees full funding of IDEA is not enough. An Obama administration will ensure effective implementation and enforcement of the of IDEA. The success of IDEA depends on parents, students, educators and school officials working closely together to shape appropriate individual education plans for each student. This should be a cooperative effort. Often it isn't so the U.S. Department of Education in an Obama administration will make sure that school districts live up to their obligations, and it will work with parents, school districts, and disability advocates to make sure teachers and principals get the help they need to educate students with disabilities in a fully inclusive setting to the maximum extent appropriate.

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Senator Obama's support for full funding of IDEA is absolutely consistent with your strong commitment and mine to make sure our children achieve success in an integrated and inclusive society.

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Seth Harris: We heard from a lot of children with autism spectrum disorders with questions like this. I am a mother of a young adult, 35 year old son with autism diagnosed when he was eight years old. Has severe speech impairment because of late diagnosis and lack of services at that time. Do you have a plan regarding the huge numbers of children being diagnosed every day, in America, to support families raising these children and adults from different generations with autism to live a productive life? Or the demands for support services throughout their life span?

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Mike Strautmanis: Thanks for your question. You are not alone dealing with this problem, Barack Obama has a plan to deal with the problem you are now facing. As an Illinois state senator Barack Obama sponsored legislation that became law creating an education program initiative designed to promote evidence-based practices. Also, Senator Obama worked side by side with Illinois families to build the Easter Seals academic programs, training to prepare students for independent living.

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One thing really lacking in this area is leadership. Senator Obama pledged to appoint a federal autism spectrum disorders coordinator to oversee federal efforts in this area. He will fully fund the Combating Autism Act and the research initiatives. This is an important issue, as well. Just like the IDEA, federal funding has not been as high as Congress promised it would be. Senator Obama consistently worked to fully fund the act and as president he will fully fund it. We will need universal screening, education and early intervention strategy for all children, particularly children with disabilities. Barack Obama will fund \$10 billion per year in developmental programs for children between 0 and 5. His plan will help expand early head start to serve more children with disabilities, early learning challenge grants, programs for children with disabilities, integrate with other early childhood problems. There's a lot more we could say here about support for adults with disabilities, caregivers, and we hope you will read the website. We encourage you to issue questions, comments to improve our work. Universal screening, early intervention are critical starting places for us all. Thank you.

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Marcie Roth: This is Marcie again. This question comes from Maureen in Chicago Illinois. Thank you Maureen. "Medically necessary and affordable health care benefits are central to every individual with chronic illness and/or disability. Full coverage means

having the best chance to maintain optimum functioning and independence. In an election year, more attention is being paid to the nation's ailing health care system. However, getting people health care insurance is often used as a synonym for health care access and/or getting health care needs met. . . . Coverage for ongoing care of a chronic illness is different than a one-time episode. Coverage must include access to specialists, physical and occupational therapies to MAINTAIN function, assistive equipment—even home and community-based care which is largely ignored as a core area of need. We also have a duty to ensure that “reform” is not used as a guise to further dismantle important benefits for individuals with chronic illness in favor of high-deductible, limited benefit plans. As president, will Senator Obama consider establishing a commission to address this issue to ensure that any health care reform includes these principles and that people with chronic illnesses and disabilities are included in the decision making?”

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Seth Harris: Thanks, Marcie, and Maureen, for the question. Maureen, Barack Obama will do a lot better than establish a commission. He's promised to sign universal healthcare before the end of his first year. Affordability, quality of care, right now 47 million Americans don't have healthcare, many more have high premiums, and limited coverage. There are millions who would like to leave the Social Security and disability roles. Obama will create a new national health plan allowing every American to buy coverage similar to the coverage he and other members of the Congress have as federal employees. Those who are not qualified for Medicaid or SCHIP, but still need help to buy their insurance, will get a subsidy to buy into the new plan or private health insurance. Obama will also expand Medicaid and SCHIP substantially and require that all children have health insurance coverage. Also, employers will be required, either to provide health insurance or to pay to support the public plan. Perhaps most important, this may be the most important thing, no American will be turned away because of a pre-existing condition. People with disabilities and their families must be included. Quality of care, including long-term care is very important for people with disabilities, other Americans.

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Here's four ways the Obama plan ensures, any insurance company participating in the new national plan will be subject to strict quality plans, reporting data regarding compliance with standards. Anyone who doesn't participate in the public plan will be able to judge their plan against those quality standards. He will require insurers participating in the new plan or Medicare, federal insurance plan must take the management of chronic conditions seriously. Providers will be required to use proven management plans, and encourage providers to put in place team care programs to implement medical home type models that improve coordination for those with chronic conditions.

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He will dramatically lower the cost of prescription medications. Americans will be allowed to buy medications from other countries, if the prices are lower and safe, implement the new public plan in Medicare, Medicaid and prohibit large drug companies from keeping generics off the market. This is very important. He will negotiate directly with the drug companies to reduce the cost of drugs bought by Medicare beneficiaries.

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Finally, one of the problems people with disabilities have, they often have to fight with their employers and insurers to get them to cover the care for chronic conditions, because long-term care is often very costly. In some cases people with disabilities have to fight to

get their chronic conditions covered at all. Healthcare plans will be reimbursed for part of the cost after suffering catastrophic illness or injury. The plan is very well developed, very thorough, I encourage you to look at the plan by going to the website at [www.barackObama.com](http://www.barackObama.com). to look at the health plan in more detail. Stan?

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Stan Klein: This is a question from Tanya in Pennsylvania. She writes, I am currently on Social Security disability, have been for a very long time. My problem is that I have diseases that have good times and bad times. There are many immune and neurological diseases like this. We can be wonderful for months, then terrible for months. When I am feeling wonderful I want to work. If I make over a certain amount, work too many months, then my Social Security is taken away. In the past I have been caught losing my Social Security and waiting for months for the case to be reopened and the checks begin coming in again. I find myself at this point literally afraid of working, which I think is very sad. Tanya makes a proposal for solving the problem and asks what do you think?

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Seth Harris: This is Seth. Tanya, this is a problem with too many people in the Social Security and SSI systems, once on it's hard to get off. Only one-third of working age people with disabilities currently have jobs. Part of the solution is the universal health plan we were talking about. Ensuring people with disabilities will have health insurance if they leave the SSDI roles or don't join in the first place, that should help. Some people stay on SSI or SSDI because they need the Medicare, Medicaid coverage that comes with the programs. Another part of the solution is for employers to do a better job accommodating workers with disabilities. People who leave to take jobs should be able to stay in their jobs, get employers help to do that. Obama will toughen enforcement of the Americans with disabilities act and require employers to give accommodations, also the Secretary of Labor will bring together and disseminate best practices.

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One of the most important workplace accommodations for people with disabilities and the 50 million people caring for family members with disabilities is scheduling flexibility, including time off from work. To guarantee greater flexibility Barack Obama will expand the Family Leave Act, to take time off without fearing losing their jobs or being unable to pay their bills. It will protect family members from being discriminated against because they are caring for their families.

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Now, we need to be honest, these strategies will help, but Barack Obama knows this is a complicated problem and needs more studies. The question from Tanya is a good one. Barack Obama will create a Commission on People with Disabilities, Employment and Social Security. They will find solutions to work disincentives in the SSI and SSDI programs, to figure out how to help people move from SSI and SSDI to work and stay at work or avoid joining the rolls at all. Tanya, there's the answer to your question. Marcie will read the last question for now.

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Marcie Roth: Hi again. This question comes to us from Lou Ann in Malden, Massachusetts. Something needs to be done to reverse the institutional bias and to begin to move resources into the community in order to support people to live and participate in their own neighborhoods. What would you do as President to move things in the right direction? Stan will answer this one.

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Stan Klein: Lou Ann, Barack Obama agrees with you completely, that we still have more to do to realize the promise of independently community base living for all Americans who want it, an agenda to make community based living a reality. The Olmstead decision -- Barack Obama believes -- community based settings for individuals with disabilities,

providing additional grants, new communities and community expansions. Obama supports the Community Choice Act, which would allow Americans with significant disabilities the choice of living in their community, rather than having to live in a nursing home or other institution. The Community Choice Act would expand communities' direct care services with the goal of ensuring high-quality care for Americans with disabilities. Obama wants to fix the shortage of community direct care employees by raising their pay and seeing they receive overtime -- like all other Americans. Obama strongly supports the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports Act, often called the CLASS act. That will create a voluntary budget neutral national insurance program to help individuals with functional needs to get the financial support they need to pay for support to allow them to remain independent and in their communities. And Barack Obama believes we must use technology to make community based living more accessible. He supports the Fostering of Independence through Technology Act, which offers 21ST century technologies to overcome barriers to all people with disabilities. In addition, Obama will amend the Medicare home bound rule to assure that people with disabilities who are receiving Medicare are not denied vital assistive living technologies just because they might be used outside of the home for attending a medical appointment, to shop for groceries, attend religious services, family events and so forth.

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Seth Harris: We are over time because of difficulties at the beginning of the call. I am sorry we didn't get to all the questions, I am sorry we couldn't answer them all here. But we are going to continue this discussion. The dialogue is not over, it has just begun. Please continue with us, continue the discussion with us. Go to the campaign website's disability issues page at [www.barackobama.com/issues/disabilities](http://www.barackobama.com/issues/disabilities)

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Click on the link for the Obama disability policy discussion, and click on join group. That will be the forum for getting answers to more questions, talking with people in the disability community who passionately support Barack Obama for President of the United States. If you agree with us, that Barack Obama should be President of the United States, we want your help to spread the word in your community. There are people on this telephone call from everywhere in the United States, and particularly from states where voting will take place on February 5th. Please, please help us spread the word in the disability community in your state. Reach out to leaders of disability communities in your state. Read the Plan to Empower Americans with Disabilities and view the video discussing the plan. Urge them to join the Obama disability policy discussion. And most importantly, urge them to vote or caucus for Barack Obama on February 5 or whenever your state votes. Let me thank everyone for participating, thank you to Janice Schakowsky, Stan Klein, Marcie Roth, and Mike Strautmanis. If you have friends, neighbors, colleagues who could not get on the call we will try to get a transcript of this call out to you as soon as we possibly can. Thank you for participating and have a good night.

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Call ends.

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