



**ORGANIZING
FOR AMERICA**

QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

“Nearly a century after Teddy Roosevelt first called for reform, the cost of our health care has weighed down our economy and the conscience of our nation long enough. So let there be no doubt: health care reform cannot wait, it must not wait, and it will not wait another year.”

—President Barack Obama

Sky-rocketing health care costs for families, businesses, and government are unsustainable. Reform is imperative to help America’s families struggling with rising costs and those who are losing their insurance. At the same time, real health care reform is crucial to keeping American businesses competitive in the world economy and for the country’s long-term economic viability. President Obama believes we can no longer afford to put health care reform on hold. His plan will strengthen employer coverage, make insurance companies accountable, and ensure patient choice of doctor and care without government interference.

- The skyrocketing cost of health care -- costs that are straining family budgets, crippling businesses and consuming government budgets – is one of the greatest threats to America’s fiscal health.
- In the last eight years, health care premiums have grown four times faster than wages, and an additional nine million Americans have become uninsured. The cost of health care now causes a bankruptcy in America every thirty seconds.
- Even for people with health care, all it takes is one stroke of bad luck to become one of the nearly 46 million uninsured -- or the millions who have health care, but can’t afford it.
- Health care reform is no longer just a moral imperative, it is a fiscal imperative. If we want to create jobs and rebuild our economy, then we must address the crushing cost of health care this year.
- The President acknowledges that all parties won’t always see eye to eye as the details of health care reform are determined. There are many areas of agreement that do exist, and these will serve as the starting point of this process. We can agree that we need to eliminate fraud, waste and abuse in government health programs. We can agree that if we want greater accountability and responsibility, we must ensure that people aren’t overcharged for prescription drugs, or discriminated against for pre-existing conditions. We can agree that if we want to bring down skyrocketing costs, we’ll need to modernize our system and invest in prevention.
- In this effort, every voice must be heard. Every idea must be considered. Every option must be on the table. When it comes to addressing our health care challenge, we can no longer let the perfect be the enemy of the essential.

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