



STATEMENT OF COMMON PURPOSE OF THE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA NOW! COALITION

“I think health care should be a right for every American. In a country as wealthy as ours, for us to have people who are going bankrupt because they can't pay their medical bills—for my mother to die of cancer at the age of 53 and have to spend the last months of her life in the hospital room arguing with insurance companies because they're saying that this may be a pre-existing condition and they don't have to pay her treatment, there's something fundamentally wrong about that.”

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA
October 7, 2008

We believe that all of us benefit from healthy communities, where we all have access to quality, affordable health care from a provider of our choice, at the time we need it, at a cost we can afford. Our mutual goal is quality, affordable health care for everyone in America and for our nation.

Our current health care system in America is not affordable for families, businesses or government. We need an American solution to secure our families' health and a healthy economy. All of us – individuals, employers and government – have a shared responsibility to realize comprehensive reforms in our health care system.



STATEMENT OF COMMON PURPOSE OF THE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA NOW! COALITION

Our government's responsibility is to guarantee quality, affordable health care for everyone in America, and it must play a central role in regulating, financing and providing health coverage by establishing:

- **A truly inclusive and accessible health care system in which no one is left out.**
- **A choice of a private insurance plan**, including keeping the insurance you have if you like it, or a public insurance plan that guarantees affordable coverage.
- **A standard for health benefits** that covers what people need to keep healthy and to be treated when they are ill. Health care benefits should cover all necessary care including preventative services and treatment needed by those with serious and chronic diseases and conditions.
- **Out-of-pocket costs** based on a family's ability to pay for health care coverage, including premiums, co-pays and deductibles, without limits on payments for covered services.
- **Equity in health care access, treatment, research and resources** to people and communities of color, resulting in the elimination of racial disparities in health outcomes and real improvement in health and life expectancy for all.
- **Health coverage through the largest possible pools** in order to achieve affordable, quality coverage for the entire population and to share risk fairly.
- **A watchdog role** on all plans, to assure that risk is spread fairly among all health care payers and that insurers do not turn people away, raise rates or drop coverage based on a person's health history or wrongly delay or deny care.
- **A choice of doctors, health providers and public and private plans**, without gaps in coverage or access and a delivery system that meets the needs of at-risk populations.
- **Affordable and predictable health costs** to businesses and employers. To the extent that employers contribute to the cost of health coverage, those payments should be related to employee wages rather than on a per-employee basis.
- **Effective cost controls** that promote quality, lower administrative costs, and increase long-term financial sustainability, including: standardized medical claims forms, secure electronic medical records, evidence-based protocols, and better management and treatment of chronic diseases. The collective public purchasing power must be used to lower drug and device prices and there must be a public role in deciding where money is invested in health care.



2009 IS THE YEAR AMERICA CAN ACHIEVE QUALITY AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE WE CAN ALL COUNT ON

“I am proud to join HCAN’s efforts to tackle the tough challenges we face in reforming our nation’s health care system.”

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA
October 6, 2008

We are united for quality, affordable health care for all in 2009.

Health Care for America Now (HCAN) is a national grassroots campaign of more than a thousand organizations in 46 states representing 30 million people dedicated to winning quality affordable health care we all can count on in 2009. As President Obama said on February 24, 2009, “So let there be no doubt: health care reform cannot wait, it must not wait, and it will not wait another year.” It is up to us to make sure Congress acts this year.

We’re joining with President Obama to guarantee good coverage you can afford.

Health Care for America Now (HCAN) is fighting for a uniquely American solution that gives you real choice and a guarantee of quality coverage you can afford: Keep your private insurance plan or join a new public health insurance plan so you are no longer at the mercy of the private insurance industry. No matter which you choose, you are guaranteed standard, comprehensive benefits that meet your needs, and you’ll pay for insurance based on your income. Government will work for you, setting and enforcing rules so private insurance companies will have to put our health before their profits. We will eliminate the enormous inequities in the health care system for people of color, and health insurance will be affordable for American businesses, both big and small.

We are a growing national movement.

Health Care for America Now and its principles for reform are supported by President Obama and more than 190 Members of Congress. We are doctors, nurses, community organizations, small business owners, faith-based groups, people of color, seniors, children’s and women’s rights groups, and labor unions. Our Steering Committee includes: ACORN, AFL-CIO, AFSCME, Americans United for Change, Campaign for America’s Future, Center for American Progress Action Fund, Campaign for Community Change, Children’s Defense Fund Action Council, Communications Workers of America, MoveOn.org, NAACP, National Council of La Raza, National Education Association, National Women’s Law Center, SEIU, United Food and Commercial Workers, USAction, and Working America.

Together we can win in 2009.

Americans know it’s getting tougher to get good, affordable health care no matter how hard we work. Even if we take responsibility for ourselves and our families and make good choices, there is still no guarantee we will get what we pay for. We need an American solution to the health care crisis now. Across the country, we are asking Members of Congress to join with President Obama and support quality, affordable health care we all can count on in 2009.



2009 IS THE YEAR AMERICA CAN ACHIEVE QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE WE CAN ALL COUNT ON

“The problem is not that folks are trying to avoid getting health care; the problem is they can’t afford it. My plan emphasizes lowering costs, not only setting up a government plan so that people who don’t have health insurance can buy into it and will get subsidized, but also making sure that those who have health insurance but are struggling with rising co-payments, deductibles, premiums.”

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA
January 21, 2008

**Tell Congress
to join with
President Obama
and support quality,
affordable health
care for all in 2009.**

Americans know it’s getting tougher to get good, affordable health care no matter how hard we work. Even if we take responsibility for ourselves and our families and make good choices, there is still no guarantee we will get what we pay for. We need an American solution to the health care crisis that guarantees quality, affordable health care we all can count on. Across the country, we are asking Members of Congress to join with President Obama and support quality, affordable health care we all can count on in 2009. President Obama and more than 190 Members of Congress already support the Health Care for America Now principles for reform. They include:

Coverage You Can Afford

- Health coverage that is affordable for every person, family and business.
- Coverage with premiums and out-of-pocket costs based on your ability to pay.
- Government acts as a watchdog, setting and enforcing rules so private insurance companies can’t deny coverage or raise rates based on health history, age or gender.

Comprehensive Benefits You Can Count On

- Standard, comprehensive health care benefits that meet your needs from preventative to chronic care.
- Low out-of-pocket costs (like co-pays) so you can afford to get medical care when you need it.
- Choice of doctors and hospitals.

Choice of Private or Public Health Insurance Plan

- Keep your current private insurance plan or join a new public health insurance plan.
- The choice of a new public health insurance plan is a guaranteed backup that will always be there to ensure quality, affordable health care coverage no matter what.

Equal Access to Quality Care

- Equity in health care access, treatment, research and resources to people and communities of color and strengthen health services in low-income communities.

One thing is crystal clear: If we want health reform that works for us, we cannot trust the health insurance industry’s so-called “reform proposals” that put their profits before our health. We need comprehensive reform that includes the choice of a public health insurance plan so we’re no longer at the mercy of the private insurance companies and our health care needs come first.