

Subject: Have Your Voice Heard Now!

southcarolina healthcarevoices

July 27, 2009



Have Your Voice Heard Now!

Send a letter to your Newspaper Editor urging Inaction on Health Care Reform is a choice we CANNOT afford.

Inaction is a Choice We Cannot Afford!

Those opposing health care reform are vocal in the media perpetuating propaganda that simply isn't true. We need to inform our public that we ARE in favor of Health Care reform and that it needs to happen now. Letters to the Editors are a great way to have your voice heard. South Carolina Health Care Voices insists that you contact your local newspaper to articulate your support for National Health Care Reform.

The Need for Reform Talking Points

--America's health care system is unsustainable on its present course. In the U.S., health insurance premiums have risen four times faster than wages over the past six years. And in South Carolina, premiums have risen 5.7 times faster than wages, higher than the U.S. average. It is estimated that by 2016, at least half of American households will need to spend more than 45 percent of their income to buy health insurance. The longer we wait to fix our health care system, the harder it will be. We need to address health reform now.

--Fixing the economy and reforming health care go hand in hand. Health spending has grown to 17 percent of the entire U.S. economy. If we fail

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to address the problems in our health system-skyrocketing premiums, millions of uninsured, wasteful spending and uncoordinated care-health care will continue to consume a larger and larger percentage of our economy, choking growth in other sectors. Achieving health reform can't take a back seat to fixing the economy-it is an essential part of it.

--If we fail to enact health reform, health care costs will continue to skyrocket, millions more Americans will lose their health insurance and the health of our nation will suffer the consequences. A recent report from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation conducted by the Urban Institute projects that by 2019, the number of uninsured Americans could rise to nearly 66 million and health insurance premiums could double. We need to pass health reform to ensure that all Americans have access to quality, affordable health care.

--American businesses-especially small businesses-are the lifeblood of our economy. But, if we do nothing, health care costs could double for businesses over the next decade. Even under best-case economic conditions, employer spending on health insurance premiums could increase by 72 percent.

--Fixing our health care system won't be easy. And not everyone is going to get exactly what they want. If we all work together-patients and doctors, businesses and government, Democrats and Republicans-we can build on what works in the current system and fix what's broken. That means reining in costs, focusing on quality care and ensuring that all Americans have choices-in plans and in doctors-so they can decide what's best for them.

--Too many uninsured South Carolina residents are being forced to gamble every day that they won't get sick or injured. That's a risk no one should have to take. People without health coverage live sicker and die younger than those with health coverage. And just one serious illness or injury can wipe out a family's bank account. The problem is becoming worse: each year, more hard-working families join the ranks of the uninsured.

--One serious illness or injury can wipe out a family's bank account. In 2007, even before the economic crisis, 41 percent of Americans had trouble paying their medical bills. And half of all bankruptcies in the U.S. are attributed to the cost of medical care. If we don't fix health care, millions of American families are at risk of financial ruin.

--Budget deficits are forcing many states to make tough decisions about which programs to fund and which to cut. During these tough economic times, it is imperative to focus on reforming our health care system so that we can make health care more affordable and accessible for all South Carolina residents. The health of our state's economy and our families depend on it.

If you have any questions about how to draft a Letter to the Editor

or would like more talking points please contact me at
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Sincerely,
Callie Vanderbilt

Program Coordinator
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center

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