



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HEALTH CARE

REFORM WE SUPPORT

Health reform is critical to the business community – businesses voluntarily pay over \$500 billion every year for employees' health insurance, and cannot afford the cost increases. We support reforming the health system with a simple three-pronged approach:

1) Get costs under control. Use an all-of-the-above strategy.

- Medical liability reform
- Health information technology
- Wellness and prevention
- Pay-for-Performance reform
- Living wills and end-of-life issues
- Consumer-driven health options
- Administrative simplification
- Tax parity: Let individuals/small business deduct the full cost of insurance expenses
- FDA pathway for biosimilars
- Comparative effectiveness research
- Coordination of care and medical homes
- Combating fraud and abuse
- Reinsurance
- Small business pooling
- Long-term care reform

Without spending a trillion dollars or raising taxes, we could implement these and many other reforms that would help us start to bend the cost curve.

2) Reform the insurance system.

- Eliminating the use of pre-existing conditions or health status
- Guaranteeing that any individual or entity will be issued a policy
- Guaranteeing that policies will not be revoked
- Place reasonable limits on rating differences
- Subsidies for those who cannot afford coverage
- An individual obligation to obtain coverage

For negligible costs to the taxpayers, we could make the insurance system work. Insurance companies support it. An individual obligation is necessary to the equation, and would raise billions for the government that could be spent toward subsidies for the poor. New rating rules would make the system fair for small business and the self-employed.

3) Create a vibrant market place.

- Create a national all-inclusive connector/exchange that removes fragmentation
- Should allow individuals and businesses from anywhere in the country to enroll
- Should facilitate improved pooling mechanisms, choice, and competition

These three simple steps, at low cost to taxpayers, could make the insurance system work for everyone (thereby increasing access for the uninsured), improve our health care delivery system, and make serious progress toward controlling costs. They have support from a vast array of stakeholders. We don't need a \$1-2 trillion dollar possible government takeover of health care – we need simple, pragmatic reforms.