



After nearly a year of debate and emotional arguments, Congress is closer than ever before to making the most significant changes to America's health care system in a generation. The House of Representatives has passed a bill and the Senate has begun debating its version. **NACHC is supportive of both the House and Senate bills** because we believe that both offer major improvement over the dysfunctional health care system we currently have. However, given the complexity involved (the bills are each around 2,000 pages long) we want to make sure that you understand what these changes could mean to you.

What Will Health Reform Mean For You?

Both the House and Senate proposals would:

- Allow you to keep the insurance policy you already have, or provide assistance to help you buy health insurance;
- Make it illegal for insurance companies to deny you a policy because of a pre-existing condition
- Make it illegal for insurance companies to cancel your insurance if you or a covered member of your family gets sick;
- Do away with annual or lifetime limits on how much insurers will pay;
- Allow parents to continue coverage of unmarried adult children on their health insurance;
 - The House bill until their 27th birthday,
 - The Senate bill, until their 26th birthday.
- Increase your access to the Medicaid insurance program by raising the income eligibility levels;
 - The House bill to 150% of the federal poverty level (about \$33,000 for a family of four)
 - The Senate bill to 133% of the federal poverty level (about \$29,000 for a family of four)
- Create a new Private Insurance marketplace (sometimes called an *Insurance Exchange*) for people who make too much to qualify at the new Medicaid eligibility levels and establish new government assistance, or *subsidies*, to help you buy insurance if you earn less than 400% of the federal poverty level (about \$88,000 for a family of four).
- Expand the Health Center program to millions of more people. Even as more people become insured, the House bill includes \$12 billion in increased funding for the Health Centers Program over the next 5 years.
- Create new, and enhance existing, incentives for doctors to work in underserved areas of the country. The House bill also makes a record investment in the National Health Service Corps, tripling the capacity of that program. The Senate bill calls for future funding of the program to be increased substantially. Both bills create new programs to help cover the costs for of training doctors in community health centers.

How Can You Get Involved?

Passing this health reform legislation will require tremendous dedication and action on the part of health care advocates across the nation. Getting involved as an advocate just takes two easy steps:

1. If you haven't already, visit www.nachc.com/advocacysignup to join our advocacy network to stay informed on health reform and important health center issues. Ask your friends, family and colleagues to do the same!
2. When you receive an Action Alert asking you to contact your Member of Congress, respond immediately to let him or her know how important health reform is to you, your health center, and the patients you serve.

For More Information and Questions Contact us at grassroots@nachc.com