



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 we do our best to help you understand what these changes could mean to you and your health center.

What Will Health Reform Mean For You?

- Both bills would allow you and your health center to keep insurance policies you already have.
- Both bills improve access to affordable health insurance coverage for you and your family, regardless of illness, pre-existing conditions or employment status.
- The House bill would allow parents to keep unmarried adult children on their health insurance until their 27th birthday; the Senate bill, until their 26th birthday.
- Both bills also make it illegal for insurers to cancel your policy if you or your family member gets sick.
- Under both bills, insurers could no longer impose annual or lifetime limits on your coverage.
- Under both bills, you or your family could no longer be denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition.

What Will Change For Your Health Center?

Both the House and Senate proposals would:

- Expand eligibility for Medicaid and maintain existing protections for health center payments within the program.
 - 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)
- Mandate insurance coverage for everyone. Both bills establish a new Private Insurance marketplace for those above the new Medicaid eligibility levels, and also provide new government subsidies directly to help people buy coverage.
- 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. This would enable the program to serve nearly 50 million patients – up from 20 million today.
- 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.