



Where They Stand: A Comparison of Healthcare Reform Policy Platforms

princetonpartners_health

This comparison tool summarizes the major stakeholders' healthcare reform policy stances, gleaned from these organizations' official communications and major news sources. As you will see, there is a considerable amount of concern for a government-run health insurance option. Additionally, each organization is proposing a policy platform that advances healthcare and creates efficiencies by re-engineering incentives of the existing system. We encourage you to learn more through the provided resources, where you can stay abreast of the issues and proposed reforms. We will continue to follow the debate on healthcare reform in this country and how it affects healthcare providers. Note: To read this in a printed format, it is formatted to fit on a legal-sized paper.

	<u>The American Medical Association (AMA)</u>	<u>The American Hospital Association (AHA)</u>	<u>America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)</u>	<u>U.S. Chamber of Commerce</u>	<u>The Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)</u>	<u>AARP</u>
Who They Represent	Physicians	Hospitals and health systems	Private insurance companies	Business owners	Drug makers and researchers	People age 50 and older
Organization Goals	AMA's mission is to promote the art and science of medicine and the betterment of public health.	AHA's goal is to advance the health of individuals and communities. The AHA leads, represents and serves hospitals, health systems and other related organizations that are accountable to the community and committed to health improvement.	AHIP's goal is to provide a unified voice for the healthcare financing industry, to expand access to high quality, cost effective healthcare to all Americans, and to ensure Americans' financial security through robust insurance markets, product flexibility and innovation, and an abundance of consumer choice.	U.S. Chamber of Commerce's mission is "to advance human progress through an economic, political and social system based on individual freedom, incentive, initiative, opportunity, and responsibility."	PhRMA's mission is to conduct effective advocacy for public policies that encourage discovery of important new medicines for patients by pharmaceutical/biotechnology research companies	AARP's mission is to enhance the quality of life for all as we age, leading positive social change and delivering value to members through information, advocacy and service.
Healthcare Reform Priorities/Points of Support	<p>The AMA has adopted policies that support the following²:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health system reform alternatives that are consistent with <u>AMA's six guiding principles</u>¹ Medicare physician payment reform efforts Patient-centered medical home as a model for providing care to patients The right of patients to privately contract with physicians <p><i>(continued on next page)</i></p>	<p>AHA's healthcare reform initiatives include⁴:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding coverage through employer-sponsored, private insurance options Providing subsidies for low-income individuals and families Expanding Medicaid eligibility with federal financing for the new populations covered through expanding eligibility <p><i>(continued on next page)</i></p>	<p>AHIP supports healthcare reform that addresses these concerns⁶:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Builds on the current employer-based system Makes common-sense changes to reduce healthcare costs Strengthens the healthcare safety net Provides a helping hand for working families and small businesses Guarantees coverage for everyone Improves the quality and value of medical care 	<p>The U.S. Chamber of Commerce supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A plan that focuses on reducing costs and making coverage affordable¹⁴ The creation of specialized health courts¹⁵ Analysis of Medicare claims data to improve quality and transparency¹⁵ Provisions to allow enrollees in federal health programs to instead take vouchers to Gateways or private insurers¹⁵ <p><i>(continued on next page)</i></p>	<p>PhRMA supports¹²:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding private health insurance as it's the best way to promote competition, choice, and innovation Promoting wellness and healthy lifestyles Improving care coordination and disease management Eliminating health disparities among minority patients Encouraging use of evidence-based medicine <p><i>(continued on next page)</i></p>	<p>AARP believes any health care reform bill must address the following six priorities¹⁶:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guaranteeing access to affordable coverage for Americans age 50 to 64 Closing the Medicare Part D coverage gap or "doughnut hole" Creating access to generic versions of biologic drugs to reduce the price of costly treatments <p><i>(continued on next page)</i></p>



Where They Stand: A Comparison of Healthcare Reform Policy Platforms

princeton **partners**_health

	<u>The American Medical Association (AMA)</u>	<u>The American Hospital Association (AHA)</u>	<u>America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)</u>	<u>U.S. Chamber of Commerce</u>	<u>The Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)</u>	<u>AARP</u>
Healthcare Reform Priorities/Points of Support <i>(continued)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective medical liability reform • Health insurance coverage of preexisting conditions • The use of incentives rather than penalties for health information technology (HIT) adoption • Enhancements to bolster the physician workforce • Student debt relief through 100% tax deductibility of student loan interest. • Follow on biologics that are more available to patients and physicians (as a lower-cost alternative) • Health insurance underwriting decisions based only on the presence of conditions that are valid predictors of morbidity and mortality • Improved health through preventative care efforts and personal responsibility • The public release and accurate use of physician data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing states temporary increases in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) to help support their Medicaid programs • Reauthorizing the Section 1011 Extension program to assist hospitals that serve high volumes of undocumented immigrants • Reforming current volume-based payment systems to focus more on incentivizing care coordination, quality and efficiency • Removing barriers to clinical integration • Making comparative effectiveness information available to the public • Streamlining and simplifying administrative processes with the insurance companies • Implementing liability system reforms to lower the costs of professional liability insurance and defensive medicine • Encouraging more medical students to go into primary care. • Eliminating RAC medical necessity review and establishing a method to re-bill denied claims at a lower payment level 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe harbors and HIPAA changes to help make employee wellness programs more effective¹⁵ • Ability to allow insurers and employers to vary premiums in ways that promote healthier lifestyles¹⁵ • Provisions to ensure that federal programs pay their fair share and do not shift costs on to private payers.¹⁵ • Options for the self-employed and individuals to use pre-tax dollars to purchase health insurance¹⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting more comparative clinical effectiveness research • Adapting interoperable health information technology • Creating more transparency • Accelerating medical advances to improve lives and reduce healthcare costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing costly hospital readmissions by creating a follow-up care benefit in Medicare to help people safely transition home after a hospital stay • Increasing federal funding and eligibility for home and community based services through Medicaid so older Americans can remain in their homes and avoid more costly institutions as they age • Improving programs that help low-income Americans in Medicare afford the healthcare and prescription drugs they need



Where They Stand: A Comparison of Healthcare Reform Policy Platforms

princeton **partners**_health

	<u>The American Medical Association (AMA)</u>	<u>The American Hospital Association (AHA)</u>	<u>America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)</u>	<u>U.S. Chamber of Commerce</u>	<u>The Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)</u>	<u>AARP</u>
Points of opposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A government-run insurance program that might reimburse physicians at lower rates like Medicare³ Disagreements exist within the AMA over how different types of physicians should be compensated (PCP/Family practices vs. specialists)³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new public plan that could exacerbate the underpayment of providers by paying rates at Medicare or Medicaid levels⁴ The Obama administration's proposed healthcare cuts through adjustments in Medicare and Medicaid that could translate into \$220 billion in payment cuts to hospitals⁵ A proposal to cut the Medicare and Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital programs⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A government-run health plan, where the government uses its purchasing power to demand much lower prices from doctors and hospitals, and ultimately drive its members out of business. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forcing a pay-or-play system on employers¹⁴ Creating a new government-run insurance plan¹⁴ Appointing an unelected, unaccountable bureaucratic committee who will basically make laws regarding required levels of benefits¹⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A public insurance that would stifle competition and force Americans to lose private coverage⁸ Price controls of prescription drugs⁹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "asset test" that limits the amount of savings that people can have in order to receive a low-income subsidy (LIS) to help pay for medications.¹¹
Action steps they've already taken	<p>Established the VoiceForTheUninsured.org, which supports and advocates expanding health insurance coverage to the uninsured, as this is a top priority for the AMA. The AMA proposal to cover the uninsured focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fairness Patient freedom of choice Assistance based on financial need Health insurance market reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting its policy ideas in the paper <i>Health for Life: Better Health. Better Health Care</i>. <i>Health for Life</i> centers on five pillars of reform upon which we must build⁷: Health Coverage for All, Paid for by All Focus on Wellness Most Efficient, Affordable Care Highest Quality Care Best Information 	<p>Launched its Campaign for an American Solution. The campaign went on a nationwide listening tour which led to the development of the reform proposal.⁶</p>	<p>Chamber representatives testify before the Senate and House Committees on the legislative options for healthcare reform, urging the committee to act with caution when creating proposals that could harm U.S. businesses.¹⁰</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed to cut in half the prescription drug expenses of those who fall into the Part D coverage gap, universally known as the "doughnut hole". They would only pay 50 percent of the cost of brand-name medications in the gap instead of the 100 percent they must pay now. If passed, it will likely go into effect in July 2010.¹³ Released their Platform for a Healthy America to share with all stakeholders their ideas about what comprehensive healthcare reform could accomplish.¹² 	<p>Formed HealthActionNow.org, a site where Americans can tell their powerful stories showing why healthcare reform is needed NOW.</p>



Where They Stand: A Comparison of Healthcare Reform Policy Platforms

princeton partners_health

1 AMA website: AMA Supports Health System Reform (HSR)

<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/legislation-advocacy/current-topics-advocacy/health-system-reform.shtml>

2 AMA website: Key Health System Reform Actions Taken at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates

<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/news-events/news-events/hsr-actions-taken.shtml>

3 New York Times article: *Following the Money in the Health Care Debate*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/14/weekinreview/14abelson.html?scp=1&sq=Policy%20and%20Profit:%20Following%20the%20Money%20in%20the%20Health%20Care%20Debate%20&st=cse>

4 AHA's Hospital & Health Reform

<http://www.aha.org/aha/content/2009/pdf/090619-hospitals-health-reform.pdf>

5 MedicalNewsToday.com article: *Proposed Budget Cuts Worry Hospitals*

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/154613.php>

6 <http://www.americanhealthsolution.org/reform-proposals/>

7 AHA's Advocacy Issue Paper *Health for Life: Better Health. Better Health Care*

http://www.aha.org/aha_app/issues/Health-for-life/index.jsp

8 USA Today article: *Lobbying boosted as health care debate heats up*

http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/health/2009-06-11-lobby_N.htm

9 Washington Times article: *Drugmaker ads to target Obama idea*

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/nov/14/drugmaker-ads-to-target-obama-idea/>

10 U.S. Chamber of Commerce website:

<http://www.uschamber.com/issues/index/health/default>

11 AARP website: *We Need Action on Healthcare Now*

http://aarp.convio.net/site/DocServer/Health_Action_Now_Overview.pdf?docID=441

12 PhRMA's *Platform for a Healthy America*

[http://www.phrma.org/files/Platform%20executive%20summary%20\(final\)%207-10-08.pdf](http://www.phrma.org/files/Platform%20executive%20summary%20(final)%207-10-08.pdf)

13 PhRMA Statement on Medicare Part D Coverage Gap

http://www.phrma.org/news_room/press_releases/phrma_statement_on_medicare_part_d_coverage_gap/

14 Statement of the U.S. Chamber of Congress on Healthcare Reform

http://www.uschamber.com/NR/rdonlyres/e40cmzetjqg4nqbim2lnzkv3y5nmbk6uy2bhovvytdlewm52zd27d3344xlu2542v53ngovrdx3a6ewvmgh2utud/090624_testimony_healthreform.pdf

15 Letter to the Senate HELP Committee on the "Affordable Health Choices Act"

http://www.uschamber.com/issues/letters/2009/090616_healthchoicesact.htm

16 AARP Website: *We Need Action Now!*

http://www.aarp.org/makeadifference/advocacy/GovernmentWatch/HealthCare/articles/we_need_action_on_health_care_now.html