



Partnership to Protect Coverage (PPC) Consensus Healthcare Reform Principles

Today, millions of individuals, including many with preexisting health conditions, can obtain affordable health care coverage. Any changes to current law should preserve coverage for these individuals, extend coverage to those who remain uninsured, and lower costs and improve quality for all. This is particularly important for populations that have been marginalized or underserved based on their race, ethnicity, geography, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability status, country of origin, and socioeconomic status.

In addition, any reform measure must support a health care system that addresses persisting inequities, provides affordable, accessible and adequate health care coverage to all, and preserves the coverage provided to millions through Medicare and Medicaid. The basic elements of meaningful coverage are described below.

Health Insurance Must be Affordable – Affordable plans ensure patients have equitable access to needed care in a timely manner from an experienced provider without undue financial burden. Affordable coverage includes reasonable premiums and cost sharing (such as deductibles, copays and coinsurance) and limits on out-of-pocket expenses. Adequate financial assistance must be available for people with low incomes and individuals with preexisting conditions should not be subject to increased premium costs based on their disease or health status.

Health Insurance Must be Accessible – All people, regardless of socioeconomic status, should be able to gain coverage without waiting periods through adequate open and special enrollment periods. Patient protections in current law should be retained, including prohibitions on preexisting condition exclusions, annual and lifetime limits, insurance policy rescissions, gender pricing and excessive premiums for older adults. Children should be allowed to remain on their parents' health plans until age 26 and coverage through Medicare and Medicaid should not be jeopardized through excessive cost-shifting, funding cuts, or per capita caps or block granting.

Health Insurance Must be Adequate and Understandable – All plans should be required to cover a full range of needed health benefits with a comprehensive and stable network of providers and plan features. Guaranteed access to and prioritization of preventive services without cost-sharing should be preserved. Information regarding costs and coverage must be available, transparent, and understandable to the consumer in a culturally competent manner prior to purchasing the plan.

ALS Association
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Kidney Fund
American Liver Foundation
American Lung Association
Arthritis Foundation
Asthma and Allergy Foundation
Autism Speaks
Cancer Support Community
CancerCare
Chronic Disease Coalition
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation
Family Voices
Hemophilia Federation of America
Immune Deficiency Foundation
JDRF
Lupus Foundation of America

Lutheran Services in America
March of Dimes
Mended Little Hearts
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
National Eczema Association
National Health Council
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Kidney Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Psoriasis Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Susan G. Komen
The AIDS Institute
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
United Way Worldwide
Volunteers of America
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease