



FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

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Goals for Health Care Reform in the 111th Congress

The FCNL affirms that health care is a human right, and comprehensive health coverage should be universally accessible to all people living in the U.S. regardless of age, gender, citizenship, geographic location, previous or existing health condition, employment status or income level.

Universal access to comprehensive health care

This must include a federally administered public health insurance option that employers, groups, and individuals can purchase, aided by income-based subsidies. At minimum a "catastrophic care" package should be assigned to everyone living in the United States, paid through individual income taxes, until each individual shows evidence of coverage by a public or private comprehensive plan.

Set national standards for public and employer-sponsored coverage

The public health option and all employer-provided plans that qualify for tax credits must provide basic and essential special services, mental, preventative, rehabilitative and long-term care, and insure all individuals that apply for coverage regardless of age, gender, previous or existing health condition.

Make health care affordable for everyone

Better regulation of the private health insurance market will help contain cost growth, while the existence of a public option will make the private health insurance market more transparent and competitive. Other cost protections should include caps on out-of-pocket expenses and a prohibition against lifetime caps on covered services.

Improve and expand existing public health programs

For now, Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP and public health clinics will continue to be necessary to serve low-income, disabled, elderly and other vulnerable populations. We suggest improvements in these programs to make them more accessible and effective.

Fair financing

Comprehensive health care reform should be financed with progressive tax revenues (graduated by income) and savings from making the current health care system more efficient.

For more information on FCNL's principles for health care reform, visit www.fcnl.org/healthcare

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