



TAKE ACTION NOW!

Make Sure That Health Reform Works for Women, Our Families and Our Communities!

Why we need to keep working:

The House and the Senate health reform bills will improve women's health, by:

- Banning insurance denials for pre-existing conditions;
- Banning gender rating;
- Requiring coverage of preventive services without co-pays;
- Including essential community providers that so many women rely on;
- Expanding Medicaid eligibility; and, establishing of federal subsidies to help us by coverage.

However, much work remains to be done. Many aspects of the House and Senate legislation differ, and some of these differences would have a significant impact on women, our families and our communities.

What's happening next:

The House and Senate Bills will be combined into a single bill that will make it to the President's desk to be signed into law. **We must all take the time to make sure our voices are heard before Congress finalizes a health reform bill!**

What you can do:

1. Contact your Senators and Representatives! Here's how:

Call the Senate/House switchboard: (202) 224-3121

Call or email your Senators:

http://senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

Call or email your Representatives: <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

2. Call the President! Here's how:

Call the WhiteHouse comment line: 202-456-1111

Email the WhiteHouse: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

What to tell them:

We want a combined health reform bill that will:

1. Meet Women's Health Needs by:

- **Protecting women.** The House Bill protects victims of domestic violence and sexual assault from insurance denials for "pre-existing conditions." The Senate Bill does not. Keep the House Bill provision.
- **Ensuring access to preventive and well-woman care.** The Senate Bill removes co-pays or deductibles for preventive health services and screenings rated highly by U.S. Preventive Health Services Task Force or for women's health services and screenings included in other federal health guidelines (more expansive array of services). The House Bill has a less expansive array of services. Keep the Senate Bill Provision.
- **Giving women who use the exchange(s) real access to abortion coverage. The final bill must eliminate the Stupak-Pitts Amendment AND remove the unfair 2-Check requirement in the Nelson Amendment.** The Stupak-Pitts amendment in the House Bill would be a de facto ban on abortion coverage in a national exchange. The Nelson Amendment in the Senate Bill is also unworkable and imposes an unfair "2-check" provision that would target women by making them write a separate check for abortion coverage. Both of these provisions are unfair to women and will ultimately further restrict women's access to abortion services. We want to see final legislation that will provide access to insurance coverage that includes abortion for women in the exchange(s).

2. Make Health Care Affordable by:

- **Expanding Medicaid eligibility to 150%, with access to the full range of benefits.** Both the House and Senate Bills expand of Medicaid eligibility based solely on income. Keep the House provision that would expand eligibility to 150%.
- **Including a strong employer mandate.** The House Bill requires most employers to offer coverage to their employees and pay fixed percentages of premium costs or pay a penalty of 8% of total payroll. The Senate Bill does not include a real mandate. Keep the House provision.
- **Including a public option.** It would compete with private insurers and lower prices. Only the House Bill contains this.

3. Make Health Care Fair by Allowing Everyone Access to the Exchange(s).

- The House Bill enables anyone who is not already enrolled in qualified health plans to shop for health insurance in new national "exchange" or marketplace. The Senate bill excludes undocumented immigrants from purchasing health insurance through the exchange, even with their own private funds. Keep the House provision.
- Lift the 5 year bar on access to public provisions for legal immigrants. Keep the Senate provision.

We must all raise our voices together to ensure that the health care reform meets the needs of women, our families and our communities.

For more resources and a detailed comparison of the House and Senate Bills see our website:

www.RaisingWomensVoices.net

*RWV is a project of
The Avery Institute for Social Change
The National Women's Health Network
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