

**How Health Care Reform
Shapes Up Is Still In Your Hands.
COMMIT: Call Congress
Once a Week
1-877-264-4226**



Call Congress! It's not glamorous. But it is important. And it's real easy. Commit to taking a few minutes at least once a week to call your Tennessee members of Congress. *Calling with a different, short message is easy and effective--and it matters.*

In the several weeks, the US Senate and House will finalize and pass one health care reform bill. What is, or is not, in the bill matters. You and your phone calls will help shape the health reform legislation.

Best days to call are Tuesday and Wednesday – but any day is a good day to call. It's nice if you can call during the day – but **any time day or night is the right time to call.**

Call Sen. Alexander, Sen. Corker & your US Representative*
using this easy toll-free number:

1-877-264-4226

*TN Congressional delegation @ www.thcc2.org/TakeAction/ContactOfficials/home.html

Use a new message each time you call:

1) Health reform must be affordable for everyone! Please support reform that includes: 1) Choices of coverage that do not cost more than eight percent of a person's annual gross income; 2) Fair, sliding-scale premiums & tax credits for low and middle-income individuals and families; 3) Capping out-of-pocket costs; and 4) Quality benefit packages that include preventative and catastrophic medical, rehabilitation, and behavioral coverage.

2) Protect low-income workers who are offered unaffordable employer-sponsored insurance. Individuals should be exempt from the mandate if they do not qualify for subsidies and their employer-sponsored coverage costs more than the amount someone at the same income level without employer-sponsored insurance is expected to pay, up to a maximum of eight percent of their income. While this solution wouldn't help these individuals obtain insurance, it would at least address the issue of fairness and avoid subjecting them to the costly penalty if they cannot afford coverage through their employer.

3) End discrimination by preventing insurance companies from automatically charging more for coverage because of age. Make sure the final bill charges older Americans no more than two times what young adults are charged for the same coverage.

4) Do not support wellness surcharges! Wellness surcharges threaten the family budgets of low- and moderate-income families. The proposed 50 percent surcharge would have amounted to about \$2,400 for a typical individual's premium in a group plan last year—that's more than one-fifth of the total annual income for an individual at the federal poverty level. When low- or moderate-income people have to pay such a surcharge, it affects their whole family, not just the person who is participating in the wellness plan. It leaves less money for housing, food, and clothing for the entire family.

5) Support proposed Medicaid Reform that will cover ALL adults up to 133 percent of poverty, 150 percent would be even better! Medicaid is a proven program that has been working in all the states for years, so let's use it to cover the poor and let's get this element of reform up and running fast!

6) We must have public option to fuel competition and fairness in the Exchange! Public plan choice fuels the competition that benefits American consumers. Without a public plan competing with private plans, we will continue to lack strong mechanisms to rein in costs and drive value down the road. As a benchmark, a new public plan alongside private plans will help unite the public around the principle of broadly shared risk while building greater confidence in government over the long term.

7) The American people need you to be on our side! It's time for Congress to stand up to big insurance and take OUR SIDE when it comes to health care by: 1) Making the insurance companies follow fair rules; 2) Making health care more affordable for everyone; 3) Giving us the choice of a public plan if we can't get coverage at work.

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