



Securing Affordable Health Care for America

PRESS STATEMENT

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Today's summit was an extraordinary and historic example of representative democracy at its very best. With both Houses of Congress having passed comprehensive legislation, the President committed an entire day to trying to find common ground in order to enact reforms required to ensure sustainable access to safe, affordable and appropriate health care. All of the participants are to be applauded for conducting an unprecedented and informative public seminar - notable for its spirited, passionate debate and civility - on one of the greatest problems facing the nation. We especially commend those participants who made it clear that doing nothing is not an option and decry those--who in arguing for starting over--ignored the increasingly urgent needs of America's families and businesses.

The day's discussion served to highlight not only the complexity and severity of the health system crisis but also the desperate need for all parties to work together to address its interrelated problems. Regrettably, the summit also demonstrated again how far we still are from making shared sacrifice and shared responsibility in health care a bipartisan reality.

To paraphrase Senator Harkin, successful insurance reforms depend on effectively controlling the growth of health care costs and slight incremental changes are akin to tossing a ten foot rope to a person drowning 50 feet away. We urge that all recommit to enacting systemic and system-wide reforms necessary to address the inter-related structural deficits of the existing system equitably, to contain costs, to provide affordable coverage, streamline administration and improve quality and safety. We continue to support all efforts being made to pass system-wide comprehensive health system reform that protects the nation's fiscal health and most vulnerable populations, by making safe, affordable, and appropriate care accessible to all individuals and families in America.

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The NCHC Action Fund is a 501(c)(4) not for profit organization devoted to public education, and advocacy to secure stable affordable health care for America. The National Coalition on Health Care, the oldest and most diverse alliance of groups committed to securing and sustaining health care system reform, is a 501(c)(3) organization. Some members of the National Coalition Health Care (NCHC) do not, or cannot, take positions either on specific legislation, strategies or on any policies outside their respective mission areas. Not every member of NCHC has a position on or supports every position of the NCHC Action Fund. However, all that can, do endorse broad policy positions do support comprehensive health system reform. Both organizations are located at 1120 G Street, NW, Suite 810, Washington, DC 20005. Phone: (202) 638-7151.