

HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION— THE FEDERAL STAGE

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS
LOWER COLUMBIA COLLEGE

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PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

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Speed-Talking Won't Reform Health Care

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NeK5ZjtpO-M>

U. S. Health Care Reform

1912-2008

- <http://healthreform.kff.org/flash/health-reform-new.html>
- <http://livingstories.googlelabs.com/lsp/healthreform#OVERVIEW:false,false,false,n,n,n:null;>



2009 Presidential Milestones

- 1/20/09—President Obama inaugurated as 44th President
- 2/24/09—President Obama Addresses Joint Session of Congress (I), mentioning health care reform
- 3/5/09—President Obama Hosts White House Forum on Health Care Reform
- 9/9/09—President Obama Addresses Joint Session of Congress (II): “The time for bickering is over. The time for games has passed. Now is the season for action. Now is when we must bring the best ideas of both parties together, and show the American people that we can still do what we were sent here to do. **Now is the time to deliver on health care.** Now is the time to deliver on health care.”
 - “Nothing in our plan requires you to change what you have.”
 - “This plan will . . . Make the insurance you have work better for you.”
 - If you’re one of the tens of millions of Americans who don’t currently have health insurance, the second part of this plan will finally offer you quality, affordable choices.”
 - Under my plan, individuals will be required to carry basic health insurance—just as most states require you to carry auto insurance. Likewise, businesses will be required to either offer their workers health care, or chip in to help cover the cost of their workers.
 - **There remain some significant detailed to be ironed out, I believe.”**

President Obama On Health Care Reform



- “We can no longer afford to put health care reform on hold.”
- “We must have quality, affordable health care for every American.”
- “There will be many different opinions and ideas about how to achieve reform, and that is why I’m bringing together businesses and workers, doctors and health care providers, Democrats and Republicans to begin work on this issue this week.”
- I suffer no illusions that this will be an easy process. It will be hard. But I also know that nearly a century after Teddy Roosevelt first called for reform, the cost of our health care has weighed down our economy and the conscience of our nation long enough. So let there be no doubt: health care reform cannot wait, it must not wait, and it will not wait another year.”

Joint Session of Congress, February 24, 2009

Congressional Activities

- <http://www.kaiseredu.org/tutorials/reformprocess/player.html>
- <http://www.kff.org/healthreform/sidebyside.cfm>
- <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2009/11/19/us/politics/1119-plan-comparison.html#tab=1>

What's Next?

- Los Angeles Times—February 8, 2010
 - "If they really want bipartisanship, then they have to collaborate," [Republican Representative from Wisconsin Paul] Ryan said.

GOP strategist Frank Luntz, who wrote an influential memo last year laying out ways for Republicans to fight the Democratic healthcare campaign, said both Obama and congressional Republicans will have to lay claim to the political center at the summit.

"If Republicans look like they are obstructing healthcare, they lose," he said.But he added that the summit also gives the GOP an opportunity to build support for an agenda that counters the White House. "This gives them their chance to push medical malpractice reform, which the public desperately wants."For their part, many Democrats believe that they will be able to cast Republicans as obstacles to the Democratic agenda of expanding health coverage and protecting consumers from insurance companies.A recent survey by the nonprofit Kaiser Family Foundation found that more than 7 in 10 Americans would back a healthcare bill if it included tax credits for small businesses. And at least 6 in 10 would back legislation that expanded the Medicaid program for the poor, helped seniors on Medicare buy prescription drugs or guaranteed that all Americans could get insurance even if they were sick.But large segments of the public do not know that these provisions are in the House or Senate bills, according to the Kaiser poll.
- <http://www.latimes.com/news/nation-and-world/la-na-health-strategy9-2010fe09,0,4008227.story>

The Blame Stops Here



In his first official State of the Union address last month, President Obama said, “I take my share of the blame for not explaining it more clearly to the American people.”

Watch Out For Parachutists



And following that speech, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said, “We will go through the gate. If the gate is closed, we will go over the fence. If the fence is too high, we will pole vault in. If that doesn’t work, we will parachute in. But we are going to get health care reform passed for the American people.”

Major 2009-2010 Health Care Reform Themes

- Cover more of the uninsured
- Produce better results
- Reduce health care costs