

Article #1

10 THINGS EVERY AMERICAN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HEALTH CARE REFORM

1. Once reform is fully implemented, **over 95% of Americans will have health insurance coverage**, including 32 million who are currently uninsured.²
 2. Health insurance companies will **no longer be allowed to deny people coverage** because of preexisting conditions—or to drop coverage when people become sick.³
 3. Just like members of Congress, individuals and small businesses who can't afford to purchase insurance on their own will be able to pool together and **choose from a variety of competing plans with lower premiums**.⁴
 4. Reform will **cut the federal budget deficit** by \$138 billion over the next ten years, and a whopping \$1.2 trillion in the following ten years.⁵
 5. Health care will be **more affordable for families and small businesses thanks to new tax credits**, subsidies, and other assistance—paid for largely by taxing insurance companies, drug companies, and the very wealthiest Americans.⁶
 6. **Seniors on Medicare will pay less for their prescription drugs** because the legislation closes the "donut hole" gap in existing coverage.⁷
 7. By reducing health care costs for employers, reform will **create or save more than 2.5 million jobs** over the next decade.⁸
 8. **Medicaid will be expanded** to offer health insurance coverage to an additional 16 million low-income people.⁹
 9. Instead of losing coverage after they leave home or graduate from college, **young adults will be able to remain on their families' insurance plans** until age 26.¹⁰
 10. Community health centers would receive an additional \$11 billion, **doubling the number of patients who can be treated** regardless of their insurance or ability to pay.¹¹
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<http://pol.moveon.org/healthcare/tenthings/?id=19504-5325989-1vOU.ex&t=1>

Sources:

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Article #2

The National Council of the United States, Society of St. Vincent de Paul has worked with its Voice of the Poor Committee to develop a sound and thoughtful position for health care reform (<http://www.svdpusa.org/VoiceofthePoor/tabid/167/language/en-US/Default.aspx>) which was adopted by its national membership in 2004. This work is based on and guided by the Church's social and moral teachings and informed by pastoral letters prepared by the United States Bishops as well as through the guidance of Papal Encyclicals.

The basis for this vision of health care reform was captured recently in a letter to Congress on behalf of the United States Bishops written by Bishop William F. Murphy of the Diocese of Rockville Center: "The Bishops' Conference believes health care reform should be truly universal and should be genuinely affordable. ...Health Care is not just another issue for the Church or for a healthy society. It is a fundamental issue of human life and dignity. To see the complete text of this letter: <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/2009-07-17-murphy-letter-congress.pdf>

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA has also worked closely with Catholic Charities USA and the Catholic Health Association. The Catholic Health Association developed a set of health care reform principles to guide our collective work in evaluating and supporting any legislation that leads to health care reform. These principles are that Health Care should be available and accessible to everyone especially the poor and the vulnerable, oriented toward health and prevention, fairly financed, transparent and consensus-driven, patient centered from conception to natural death, and provide the greatest possible quality.

Again, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has not supported any particular or specific legislation; it has expressed its concern for the need for the U.S. Congress to deal with this most urgent need now.

"The Society of St. Vincent de Paul does not support nor will it support any legislation, provision or amendment that fails to uphold the sanctity and dignity of human life," said Joe Flannigan, the National President of the U.S. Society. "Further, we will continue to work with Catholic Health Association and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Charities USA to ensure that any legislation will continue to support the conscience clause protection to health care workers and that the Hyde exception continues to ensure no abortion can be funded with federal funds."