

OUR MISSION

We believe that good health is the cornerstone of progress. We are firm in our resolve to make exemplary health care accessible and affordable to all in need, dedicated to lowering the high rate of cardiovascular disease in minority populations, and committed to advocacy and diversity. We are guided by high ethics in all transactions and strive for excellence in our training and skills.

OUR VISION

Cardiovascular disease is no longer a leading cause of death.

OUR GOALS

- Create leadership that drives a national agenda
- Achieve reduction in CVD through awareness
- Establish sufficient endowment to fund our programs

Health Care Reform

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

The United States has an appalling record with health care delivery. As the most prosperous nation in the world, the number of uninsured and underinsured Americans is a matter of national disgrace. The number of uninsured is approaching 50 million, the average cost of family coverage has risen 78 percent in the last six years, and more and more employers say they cannot afford to provide health coverage and still compete in a global marketplace.

The issue of health-care reform in the United States received even more attention with the summer release of Michael Moore's latest film, *Sicko*. While many groups have voiced concerns about these and other health care related issues over the past decades, few concrete solutions have emerged. With a renewed public call for action, however, a viable solution will hopefully soon appear.

As the 2008 elections approach, and as presidential candidates from both major parties court the American public, they are gravitating toward a common public concern: the United States health care system. A Kaiser Family Foundation poll released in March shows that health care ranks as the second most important issue (just behind Iraq) that the public would like discussed by presidential candidates for the 2008 election.

Among health care issues that Americans would most like to hear presidential candidates discuss, expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured tops the list and holding down costs follows closely behind, according to a recent CBS News/ New York Times poll. It appears that the candidates are listening.

Though the country is hungry for change, however, many hurdles still remain. The current debate over renewing and expanding the children's health insurance program is a case in point.

As the election season is upon us, I urge you all to consider each candidates' position on health care and health care reform and what this will ultimately mean for our country. While each candidate has different view on health reform strategies, at least they are all including health care in their platform and hopefully we are all talking about the same ultimate goal: adequate healthcare for all Americans.



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