

FACTS about HEALTH CARE REFORM

The insurance corporations are spending \$1.4 million a day¹ to spread lies about health care reform, so their profits can keep skyrocketing while our health care suffers. You decide who you believe — lies from the insurance companies that get rich from the status quo, or the facts about how health care reform will help real people *like you*.

YOUR HEALTH CARE COSTS WILL GO DOWN

If you have private insurance you like, you will keep your insurance — and your costs will go down.² What's not to like? When there's only one gas station in town, they can charge whatever they want and people have no choice but to pay. When there's only a few insurance companies, they can charge whatever they want, too. We have no other choice. Competition is what drives down prices. And health insurance reform, including a public health insurance option, will hold the insurance tycoons accountable and make them lower prices and out-of-pocket fees to compete.

QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE WILL GO UP

When insurance companies have a monopoly, they can deny your claims and deny you treatment and what can you do? But if there's competition, you have another option. That holds the insurance companies' feet to the fire. Plus, health insurance reform will regulate the insurance companies so they can no longer deny coverage for pre-existing conditions and other technicalities. The quality of all of our care will go up.³

SENIORS WILL GET BETTER CARE, TOO

When the insurance companies want to scare you, they talk about your mama.⁴ The truth is, health insurance reform will create more choices for patients of all ages — including senior citizens — and give them *more* power over their health care, not less. Plus health care reform will make Medicare better, not by reducing benefits as you might have heard⁵, but by cutting billions of dollars in waste, fraud and abusive overpayments to insurance giants.⁶

REFORM WILL MAKE HEALTH CARE *MORE* AMERICAN

Insurance company plants are saying that health care reform will make America more like Russia. But isn't Russia the place where a few businesses and elites monopolize entire industries? America is about choice and competition. And health care reform will actually do away with some of the worst kinds of rationing, like canceling coverage for pre-existing conditions and lifetime and yearly limits on coverage.⁷

WE CAN'T AFFORD *NOT* TO REFORM HEALTH CARE

We're spending more than \$2 trillion dollars *per year* on health care in America.⁸ The average family premium is projected to rise to over \$22,000 in the next decade.⁹ Every year, nearly a million families face bankruptcy because of medical debt.¹⁰ Health care reform will drive down costs and save you money and be fully paid for over 10 years — not adding a single penny to the deficit.¹¹ Meanwhile, the cost of doing nothing is enormous and only growing.

For more information, visit: <http://www.statefairstories.org>

¹ "Lobbyists Spend Millions to Influence Health Care," Dan Eggen, Washington Post online, July 21, 2009. http://voices.washingtonpost.com/health-care-reform/2009/07/health_care_continues_its_inte.html

² "Obama: 'If You Like Your Doctor, You Can Keep Your Doctor'", Wall Street Journal blog, June 15, 2009. <http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2009/06/15/obama-if-you-like-your-doctor-you-can-keep-your-doctor/>

³ "Why We Need a Public Health-Care Plan," Robert Reich, Wall Street Journal, June 24, 2009. <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124580516633344953.html>

⁴ "No 'death panel' in health care bill," Associated Press, August 10, 2009. http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090810/ap_on_go_co/us_health_care_end_of_life_q_a

⁵ "Obama: No reduced Medicare benefits in health care reform," CNN, July 28, 2009. <http://www.cnn.com/2009/POLITICS/07/28/obama.health.care/>

⁶ "Reality Check FAQs," WhiteHouse.gov, accessed August 10, 2009. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/realitycheck/faq#s1>

⁷ "Reality Check FAQs," WhiteHouse.gov, accessed August 10, 2009. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/realitycheck/faq#r1>

⁸ "Reality Check FAQs," WhiteHouse.gov, accessed August 10, 2009. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/realitycheck/faq#c1>

⁹ "Premiums Run Amok," Center for American Progress, July 24, 2009. http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/07/premiums_run_amok.html

¹⁰ "Medical bills prompt more than 60 percent of U.S. bankruptcies," CNN, June 5, 2009. <http://www.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/06/05/bankruptcy.medical.bills/>

¹¹ "Reality Check FAQs," WhiteHouse.gov, accessed August 10, 2009. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/realitycheck/faq#c1>