



Why Health Care Reform is Good for America's Seniors

President Obama's health care proposal really works for America's seniors. With improvements to Medicare and better preventative services, health care reform will help seniors stay healthy and will work for better health for all Americans. Here's a snapshot of just some of the ways that health care reform will work for you:

1. *Protects Your Choice of Doctor* – Health care reform will prevent a scheduled 20% cut in Medicare doctor payment rates next year, ensuring that doctors will continue to serve seniors and seniors can continue seeing their preferred doctors.
2. *Keeps You Healthy by Making Preventative Services Affordable* – Health care reform will eliminate co-payments and deductibles for preventive services in Medicare. Currently, over 70 percent of costs and deaths in the U.S. result from chronic diseases, many of which can be prevented or controlled.
3. *Lowers Your Prescription Drug Costs* – Health care reform will significantly reduce & ultimately eliminate the troublesome Part D doughnut hole so that seniors will now be able to get the medications they need without breaking the bank or going without other necessities. Additionally, the government will be able to negotiate on behalf of Medicare for lower prescription drug prices.
4. *Supports Early Retiree Coverage* – Health reform will provide financial assistance to employer health plans that cover early retirees, bringing down health costs and premiums by as much as \$1,200 per family, per year for some plans.
5. *Removes Obstacles to Changing Your Part D Plan* – Health care reform will allow a Part D enrollee to make a mid-year change in their enrollment if their current plan unexpectedly makes a change that result in higher cost for a drug they take.
6. *Significantly Lowers Cost for Struggling Seniors* – Health care reform will expand the Medicare Part D low-income subsidy, which will dramatically help struggling seniors afford their health care costs.
7. *Brings Savings to Medicare* - By eliminating wasteful overpayments to private plans under Medicare and by creating new incentives for coordinated, high quality care across the health care spectrum, Health care reform will extend Medicare's Trust Fund solvency and improve Medicare for generations to come.

Congress has to hear from you this August! Tell them America's seniors want quality, affordable health care reform that works for all Americans.

Health Care Can't Wait. Seniors Can't Wait. Health Care Reform Now!

815 16th Street, N.W., 4th Floor · Washington, D.C. 20006 · (202) 637-5399 · (202) 637-5398 (Fax)

www.retiredamericans.org

