

Securing Affordable and Accessible Health Care for All Americans

Senate Republicans delivered better Medicare and a prescription drug benefit to America's seniors.

- Traditional Medicare is strengthened and improved to keep up with advancements in health care, including disease management and preventive care.
- For the first time ever, a new drug benefit pays for both brand name and generic drugs, and offers a choice of plans.
- Seniors who need the most help to pay for prescription drugs receive the most help under the new Medicare law.

Senate Republicans are working to make health care more affordable, portable, transparent and efficient.

- Republicans passed the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act which created a voluntary system of medical error reporting to identify and resolve preventable medical errors.
- Republicans passed legislation to encourage adoption of information technologies in health care to reduce medical errors, improve quality of care, and lower health care costs.
- Republicans passed legislation to continue federal support for bone marrow and umbilical cord blood research that will make profound difference in the lives of thousands of patients.

Senate Republicans will consider legislation that will make health insurance more affordable for America's small business owners and working families.

- Small Business Health Plans (SBHP) would give a small or family-owned business the opportunity to choose the health plan that is best for the owners, their families, and their employees.
- SBHP legislation will also cover more than one million uninsured Americans in working families.
- This bill will reduce the cost of health insurance for small employers by 12 percent – that's \$1,000 per employee – according to a respected actuarial firm.

Source: Senate Republican Conference, Health Care Working Group, Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee



Prepared by the Senate Republican Conference

Rick Santorum-Chairman, Kay Bailey Hutchison-Vice Chairman

Senate Republicans are committed to delivering a balanced approach to medical liability reform that improves access to quality health care and reduces health costs:

- Medical Care Access Protection Act of 2006 (S.22), a comprehensive medical liability reform bill, and
- Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies Access to Care Act (S.23), a targeted ob/gyn medical liability reform bill.
- Both bills address our nation's current medical liability crisis which is forcing physicians, hospitals, and other health care providers to move out of high-liability states, limit the scope of their practices, and even close their doors permanently.

Republicans seek to implement reasonable, comprehensive, and effective reforms to:

- Reduce the incidence of costly "defensive medicine,"
- Provide appropriate financial relief to the injured,
- Improve the fairness and cost-effectiveness of our current liability system, and
- Lower the premiums and reduce health costs.

Senate Republicans will work to overcome Democrat obstruction of medical liability reform to deliver a solution that protects patients, access, and quality.

- Patients are the #1 priority.
- Patients have lost their doctors and the care they provided.
- Patients have been forced to travel great distances because doctors have been driven out of their communities by unnecessary costs.
- Every time another \$100 million verdict is awarded:
- Patients' monthly premiums and deductibles will increase,
- Patients' health care costs will increase, and
- Patients even less fortunate won't be able to afford the medical care they need.

Source: Senate Republican Conference, Health Care Working Group