



The Time to Act for Health Care is Now! **Join Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage**

More than 1 million Ohioans have no health coverage. Others have inadequate coverage which makes treatment and care unaffordable. Others lack access to the right care at the right time. More than three-fourths of uninsured Ohioans under the age of 65 are employed.

Ohio's policymakers and stakeholder groups are working on proposals to expand access to affordable health care. Businesses, hospitals, insurers and other stakeholders are actively protecting their interests. But who is looking out for consumers? **We need a strong, united consumer voice to make sure reforms meet the needs of all Ohioans.**

Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage (OCHC) combines the forces of health care consumers and advocates for access to health care, to create a united consumer voice for health care reform.

OCHC's Principles for Health Care Reform

We will use the following principles* as a yardstick to measure proposals for reform.

- Health care coverage should be available for all.
- Health care coverage should be continuous.
- Health care coverage should be affordable to individuals and families.
- The strategy for achieving health care coverage should be affordable and sustainable for society.
- Health insurance should enhance health and well-being by promoting access to high-quality care that is effective, efficient, safe, timely, patient-centered, and equitable.

*Adapted from *Insuring America's Health: Principles and Recommendations*, Institute of Medicine, 2004.

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Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage Partners

Early conveners include AARP, American Cancer Society, Legal Aid of Southwest Ohio, Toledo Area Jobs with Justice, Ohio Council of Churches, National Alliance for Mental Illness (Ohio), Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Organize!Ohio, UHCAN Ohio, WeBelieveOhio, Cerebral Palsy Association of Ohio and Faith Community Alliance of Greater Cincinnati.

Approaches to Achieving Health Care Reform

As we work to unite around a set of proposals, we have identified some key elements of health care reform:

- **Insurance reform:** Guarantee access to affordable, adequate coverage for everyone; premiums that are not based on health condition or history, employment status and other factors.
- **Public coverage or subsidies to make coverage affordable:** People with lowest incomes need publicly funded coverage; people with low incomes need subsidies to afford private coverage.
- **Shared responsibility:** Employers, insurers, providers, government and consumers need to contribute to the cost of health coverage.
- **Transparency and accountability** in health care spending. We need the information in order to determine policies to improve efficiencies.
- **Improve the quality and cost effectiveness of health care.** Deliver the right care at the right time and place to improve outcomes and reduce unnecessary expenditures.

OCHC Background

OCHC came together in response to a Call for Proposals from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for consumer health advocacy organizations working in coordinated efforts to expand health coverage in their states. With support from the Robert Wood Johnson Consumer Voices for Coverage project, UHCAN Ohio and OCHC are building the policy, grassroots, media and other capacities needed to be an effective voice for all Ohio consumers. Please join us.

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