

Health Care Reform Scorecard: An HIV/AIDS advocates' guide to health care reform proposals in 2009

This chart is based on priorities aimed at increasing early and uninterrupted access to affordable, comprehensive, and quality health care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. This chart is intended only to give advocates a general sense of whether or not the reform proposals address our priorities in a way that would represent at least minimal progress in each area. More detailed evaluation of these proposals is presented in our health care reform analyses available at www.taepusa.org/.

HCAWG Priority	Baucus	Wyden	Sanders	Coburn	Kennedy
Increase access to Medicaid coverage.	✓✓	✓	✓✓		✓✓
Guarantee comprehensive, quality Medicaid benefits.	✓		✓		
Limit consumers' out-of-pocket costs.	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	
Increase the federal contribution to states' Medicaid programs during times of high unemployment.	✓✓				
Facilitate routine, voluntary HIV screening and counseling.	✓	✓✓	✓		
Eliminate the 2-year waiting period for Medicare.	✓✓✓		✓✓		
Protect Medicare recipients facing prescription drug coverage gaps.		✓✓			
Strengthen the clinical workforce.	✓✓	✓	✓✓✓		✓✓✓
Increase access to both public and private health care options.	✓	✓			✓✓✓*
Increase access to care by strengthening Ryan White community-based programs.	✓		✓		✓



This report was prepared by staff of the WilmerHale Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School and the Treatment Access Expansion Project for the HIV Health Care Access Working Group (HCAWG). The Working Group is a coalition of nearly 100 national and community-based AIDS service organizations representing HIV medical providers, advocates and people living with HIV/AIDS and providing critical HIV-related health care and support services. For more information, contact co-chairs Laura Hanen, of the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, at 202.434.8091, or Robert Greenwald, of the Treatment Access Expansion Project, at 617.390.2584.



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* Senator Kennedy's draft bill includes a placeholder creating a public health insurance plan option, but delegates development of details on the structure of the plan to the HELP Committee.

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User Guide

- ✓ Plan acknowledges issue. Plan proposes some course of action that is reasonably likely to achieve at least minimum progress in this area.
- ✓✓ Plan addresses issue with proposal that is likely to make significant progress in this area or is reasonably likely to accomplish a substantially similar goal.
- ✓✓✓ Plan adopts the Working Group's recommendation for improving early and affordable access to quality, comprehensive health care for low-income consumers.
- no check Current language in plan does not appear to address this issue, or structure of plan makes this issue moot.