

The Cost of Doing Nothing

Reforming America's Broken Health Care System Now

As wages tighten and unemployment rises, soaring medical costs are squeezing individuals, families, businesses, and the nation as a whole. One in two Americans say someone in their family skipped pills, postponed or cut back on needed medical care due to the cost of care. Medical expenses are often a key contributor in filing for bankruptcy. And, government spending on health programs is rising so rapidly that it jeopardizes other priorities.

- **President Obama promised to make health reform a priority.** Reining in health care costs was a major factor in how voters cast their ballots. According to the exit polls, 66 percent of voters said they were worried about health care costs and half of them said they were very worried.
- **The financial burden of health care will only get worse over time without action.** If nothing is done, your family premium for employer sponsored insurance will jump by nearly 40 percent by the end of the first term of the Obama Administration, and will almost double by 2016. The full cost will rise from an average of about \$13,000 this year to over \$24,000 in 2016.
- **As health care costs continue to grow faster than wages, your insurance will become more and more unaffordable.** The share of your income spent on your family's health insurance will nearly double between now and 2016. Your premiums will jump from 6.7 percent of median household income this year to 9 percent in 4 years, and to 12 percent in 8 years.
- **Money spent on employee health insurance is money that can't go into your paychecks to keep up with the costs of other necessities.** Employers -- if they keep picking up most of the cost of employee coverage -- will see their share of health insurance bills increase from an average of almost \$9,900 per worker today to \$13,300 in 2012 and \$17,900 in 2016.
- **You will pay more for less coverage.** The financial protection offered by health insurance will continue to deteriorate if we do not act. Without health reform, the average health insurance deductible -- what people have to pay before their insurance kicks in -- will climb 73 percent in the next eight years to over \$2,000.
- **Financial hardships will force millions to turn to government help for health care.** Economists predict that the unemployment rate will reach 9 percent by the end of 2009. Without health reform, each one percentage point rise in the unemployment rate could cause 1.1 million to become uninsured and Medicaid and SCHIP enrollment to jump by 1 million at a cost to taxpayers of \$3.4 billion.

Join us to make Washington keep its promise to fix America's health care system. Help end the partisan bickering and gridlock by demanding action now. We can't afford to wait. Visit www.dividedwefail.org to learn more.