

Figuring Out Health Care Reform



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Attempting to figure out health care reform has become a “pastime” for many people. You may need more details on how this very complex plan would affect you, your family and our nation. Many of you are telling AARP that this issue is **just plain hard to understand**. So many numbers, ideas and claims are floating around, it’s hard to get a grip on this complicated issue.

In this Health Action Now, I’ll share one question we’ve been hearing, followed by our explanation. We won’t just tell you what we think – we’ll cite the best research we can find. We’ll also list other questions we’ve been getting, with links to answers on a special AARP web site. Our goal is to fill in parts of the health-reform picture you may have not yet seen.

To share your thoughts on health reform, pro or con, please call 1-866-AARP-449. To learn more about the issue, please go to website. To share your story of how our health system is affecting you, please go to www.healthactionnow.org.

Q I’ve heard a lot about the so-called “public option” plan? Won’t that lead to employers dropping their health-care coverage – and eventually, a government takeover of all private health care?

A According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), a nonpartisan budget agency, the answer is no. CBO says that most employers would probably keep their employee coverage plans if health reform legislation is enacted, because it would be cheaper and make it easier for them to hold onto key employees in the long run. Also, if larger employers chose not to offer health coverage for employees, they would not only lose an important tax deduction, they’d also face increased taxes. In fact, the CBO [published a table](#) estimating that the number of people insured by their employer would actually rise by 2 million people over the next 10 years if health-care reform is enacted. See page 1 of the linked table in this report for more details.

Let me make it clear that AARP **neither supports nor opposes a “public option” plan.**

If health reform with a public option is the best way to hold down costs, the Association’s all-volunteer Board of Directors may be willing to support it, provided it helps preserve Medicare over the long term, brings down the cost of prescription drugs, guarantees you a choice of dependable, affordable health insurance plans and preserves your choice of doctors. AARP also would support a final plan that doesn’t include a public option, as long as it does what we want health reform to do. **The Association’s top priority is access to affordable, quality health care.**

Health Care Currents

In Print

Greenville LAT volunteer **Dan O’Connell’s** letter to the editor is published in the August 29 edition of the Greenville News. Click [here](#) for the link.

Day of Service

Friday, September 11 is AARP’s National Day of Service. Chapters and volunteers will be taking part in this special day of service.

In the Mail

LAT members and other volunteers have received information regarding an upcoming training on health care reform in September. Make sure you adhere to the deadlines so that reservations and plans can be made accordingly.

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