



Interfaith Center on
Corporate Responsibility

Inspired by faith, committed to action

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ICCR Health Care Principles

The Honorable Chris Dodd
448 Russell Building
Washington D.C., 20510
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Dear Senator Dodd:

As Congress considers legislative proposals for reforming health care, I call your attention to the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) Health Care Principles. These Principles have been endorsed by over 80 faith-based institutional investors, from congressional districts across the United States.

A coalition of 275 faith-based institutional investors, ICCR members have worked for decades as shareholders to assist corporations in understanding the social context of the business enterprise, our collective interests and responsibilities. When purpose, policy, and strategy are effectively aligned with benefits to society, all parties prosper.

Together, we called for – and achieved – adoption of ethical marketing codes by infant formula makers. We called for – and achieved – protections from secondhand smoke for workers at national restaurant chains. We called for – and achieved – unprecedented levels of transparency in political spending from major pharmaceutical companies. We called for – and achieved – generic production of patented anti-retroviral AIDS drugs.

Because we understand that health care reform is a critical social and business issue, we have encouraged corporations to adopt principles for health care reform that achieves a health system responsible for affordable, quality health care for all our people. Business models that understand and strive for this goal will certainly thrive. Due to the advocacy efforts of our members as well as others, over 30 companies have endorsed principles similar to the ICCR Principles.

This reflects the growing consensus that now is the time for Congress to act. Now is the time for enacting legislation that includes a strong/meaningful public plan in order to provide access to affordable, quality health care which is accountable and equitable to all across our nation. Now is the time for Congress to make substantive changes in our health care system.

Thank you for closely reviewing these Principles. Let them guide your deliberations in the weeks ahead.

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ICCR Health Care Principles

Social justice demands health security, guaranteeing affordable quality health care for all. Access to health care is a fundamental human right, benefits society and serves the individual, the common good and employers.

ICCR members advocate these principles for health care reform:

Health security: A reformed healthcare system will guarantee affordable quality health care for all.

Access: In a reformed healthcare system, each individual, regardless of health or financial circumstances, has a set of portable and comprehensive core benefits that is sufficient for physical and mental health.

Quality: A reformed healthcare system will determine quality through the re-alignment of incentives as well as care design and care coordination to:

- Improve health outcomes
- Increase patient safety
- Provide evidence-based medical practice and appropriate investments to create a more effective and higher performing health care system.

Accountability: All stakeholders (individuals, providers, businesses, non-profits, governments) are accountable for the integrity, viability, and cost containment of the health care system.

Equitable financing: All stakeholders share responsibility for equitable financing of the system so that health care is affordable for all.

Essential Elements of a Reformed Health Care System:

We believe we can only achieve health reform through addressing fundamental problems of access and affordability, quality, accountability and efficiency in our current system.

Consequently, essential elements must include:

- Comprehensive core benefits and services across the continuum of care, providing a balance of wellness, prevention and acute services available to all;
- Openness/transparency about health system quality, outcomes and costs;
- Care coordination (e.g. medical homes) across the continuum of care;
- IT connectivity for electronic medical records available to all clinicians for care delivery and coordination;
- Incentives for providers to provide quality, efficient and cost-effective services;
- Elimination of unneeded administrative/overhead costs;
- Elimination of barriers such as pre-existing condition exclusion, lack of portability, rescission of coverage, and addressing concerns in the current medical malpractice system.