

Domestic Health

While the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has made great improvements in the provision of affordable health care for millions of Americans since its passage in 2010, 29 million people in the U.S. still lack basic health care coverage and the nation ranks last among 11 developed nations in terms of quality and access.

ICCR members advocate for health care as a basic human right, and for more than 20 years have called for a more efficient, equitable and sustainable domestic health care system. Through engagement with pharmaceutical, insurance, and medical device companies, and some of the nation's leading employers, ICCR members are playing an important role in ensuring implementation of ACA.

Employer-sponsored insurance is an important avenue of coverage for many Americans, yet there is a push currently underway to revise the federal definition of full-time work from the current 30 to 40 hours a week, making it easier for employers to avoid providing insurance. Over the past 12 months, ICCR members have engaged Kohl's, Macy's, McDonald's, Target, Walmart, and Yum! Brands – large employers with many part-time and low-wage workers – and encouraged them to either include these part-time employees in their company plans, or help them find coverage. Both Walmart and Target confirm that they now offer assistance to all employees. The proportion of Macy's associates who are now enrolled in the company's plans has increased from 60% to 64%, and the proportion of Walmart employees who are enrolled in the company's plan has increased from 70% to 74%.

ICCR members also encourage insurers UnitedHealth Group, Wellpoint, and Aetna to expand their coverage to more states, and



provide more and better options, as competition generally results in lower prices for consumers. For instance in 2013, UnitedHealth Group was reluctant to enter into the individual markets, but by 2014, reversed course and expanded into 23 states. It has also established Accountable Care Organizations in multiple states in an effort to improve health outcomes and reduce costs by facilitating the delivery of more coordinated care for Medicare beneficiaries.

Members are asking leading pharmaceutical companies AbbVie, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Pfizer, and Roche for transparency regarding their pricing strategies, to undertake comparative effectiveness research to substantiate patient health outcomes, and to publicly support ACA, Medicaid expansion, and funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Price transparency is a concern ICCR members also bring to medical device manufacturers such as Johnson & Johnson and Boston Scientific. Members have also called for medical device manufacturers to stop lobbying for the repeal of ACA's medical device excise tax, as all stakeholders share responsibility for the equitable financing of our health care system.

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