



DISCUSSING HEALTH REFORM: BY THE NUMBERS

After decades of debate we are now closer than ever to achieving meaningful health reform that will provide affordable, quality health care for all Americans. Since 2007, the House Democrats have held 100 health reform-related hearings. Furthermore, the Democratic Congress has kept its promise to provide an unprecedented amount of transparency and respect for the legislative process, providing Members and stakeholders the ability to weigh in, ask questions and offer constructive ideas. Here is a snapshot of the debate surrounding the *Affordable Health Care for America Act*, by the numbers:

PUBLIC DISCUSSION AND DEBATE ON HEALTH REFORM

In the 111th Congress, the Committees responsible for drafting legislation, Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Education and Labor have:

- **Spent nearly 100 hours in hearings on health reform legislation.**
- **Heard from 181 witnesses (both Democratic and Republican).**
- **Spent 83 hours in Committee markups.**
- **Considered a total of 239 amendments; approved 121.**

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE MATERIALS

- **Draft bill was available online for 25 days before H.R. 3200 was introduced.**
- **H.R. 3200 was posted online for 30 days before the first Committee markup.**
- **H.R. 3200 was posted online for 107 days before introducing the merged bill.**
- **Text of the reintroduced bill, H.R. 3962 was posted on October 29, 2009.**
- **The Democratic leadership is committed to making the Manager's Amendment (introduced November 3, 2009) available for a full 72 hours before a Floor vote.**

HEARING FROM CONSTITUENTS

Since the spring of this year, House Democrats have held 3,000 health care town halls and public events in their districts, giving Members the opportunity to hear directly from their constituents and discuss the impact that health reform will have on their communities. Tens of thousands of e-mails, calls, and letters have been logged in Congressional offices to also register public comment.

COMPARED TO MEDICARE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

From draft bill release to House Floor vote, the House will have spent over **four months working on health reform legislation** this year. For comparison, consider Republican actions for the House Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, in which the **entire process from introduction to passage on the House Floor spanned eleven days, leading up to an unprecedented three hour vote on the conference report:**

- June 16, 2003 – HR 2473 Introduced and referred to committees
- June 17, 2003 -W&M Mark-up
- June 19, 2003 – E&C Mark-up
- June 25, 2003 -HR 1 Introduced
- June 26, 2003 – Brought to House Floor
- June 27, 2003 -2:32 AM, passed 216-215