

FAST FACTS ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

FINANCIAL IMPACT ON AMERICAN FAMILIES TODAY

- Since the last big health care debate in the 1990s, Americans' health care premiums have risen eight times faster than wages. (*Robert Wood Foundation, March 2009*)
- Today, a person files for bankruptcy due to medical costs every 30 seconds. (*National Coalition on Health Care, 2009*)
- An estimated 2.4 million Americans have lost their health insurance – along with their jobs – since the start of the recession in December 2007. (*Center for American Progress, May 2009*)

TROUBLING TRENDS IN HEALTH CARE TODAY

- In less than 10 years, spending will nearly double – reaching almost \$4 trillion and totaling \$1 out of every \$5 we spend. (*Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services, March 2009*)
- Estimates show that there will be insufficient funds in the Medicare trust fund only eight years from now. (*Congressional Budget Office, June 2009*)
- Over the past 10 years, health care premiums have increased nearly 120 percent for employers and their workers. (*Kaiser Family Foundation, 2008*)
- Today, chronic diseases result in seven out of 10 deaths and account for 75 cents out of every \$1 spent on health care. (*Centers for Disease Control, November 2008*)

REDUCING WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE

- For every dollar spent on oversight and enforcement to fight waste, fraud and abuse in Medicare, Americans can see up to \$17 in return. (*Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General, 2009*)
- Last year alone, better enforcement measures to fight waste, fraud and abuse in Medicare netted Americans more than \$16 billion in savings. (*Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General, 2009*)

QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR ALL AMERICANS

- The number of underinsured people – or those who are insured but cannot afford enough insurance to protect them from high medical costs – has risen 60 percent since 2003, totaling an estimated 25 million adults. (*The Commonwealth Fund, June 2008*)
- Providing coverage to today's uninsured population would increase America's economic well-being by an estimated \$100 billion a year. (*The Council of Economic Advisors, June 2009*)

SAVING MONEY THROUGH REFORM

- If the entire health care system were to perform as well as the top 10 percent of today's health plans, nearly 88,900 lives could be saved and up to \$3.7 billion in unnecessary hospital costs could be avoided each year. (*National Committee for Quality Assurance, 2008*)
- Health care reform could reduce costs for small businesses by as much as \$855 billion over the next 10 years, a reduction of 36 percent. (*Small Business Majority, June 2009*)