



DEMOCRATS CARRY OUT OPEN, TRANSPARENT HEALTH REFORM DEBATE

“This is the most thoroughly debated piece of legislation in my memory in Washington.” – Bill Kristol, Fox News Sunday, 3/7/10

“[T]his bill has received more careful consideration, more exposure, more transparency, more debate, more hearing time, more debate time, more amendments offered, than almost any bill that I can think of in my 30 years in the Congress of the United States.” – Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, 3/16/10

Last March, the President invited Members of Congress and national health care leaders to the White House for an open, broad-ranging discussion on how to expand access, improve quality and lower the costs of health care for all Americans. In the year since, House and Senate Democrats have taken an open and transparent approach to the debate on health insurance reform, with nearly 200 bipartisan hearings and countless health care events across the country.

HEALTH CARE BY THE NUMBERS: HOW DID WE GET HERE?

HOUSE

- The House has held **79 bipartisan hearings and markups** on health insurance reform over the past 2 years.
- House Members spent nearly **100 hours in hearings**, heard from **181 witnesses** from both sides of the aisle, considered **239 amendments** (both Democratic and Republican), and **accepted 121 amendments**.
- The original House bill was posted **online for 30 days** before the first Committee began their markup and more than **100 days before the tri-committees formally introduced their merged bill** in the House.
- House Democrats posted the **first House bill online for the promised 72-hour review**.
- The Senate bill to be voted on in the House has been **online for three months**, and the improvement legislation will be **online for 72 hours of review before a final vote**.
- House Democrats have heard and answered questions from constituents at more than **3,000 health care town halls and public events**, and **tens of thousands of e-mails, calls, and letters** have been logged in Congressional offices to register public comment.

SENATE

- The Senate Finance Committee held more than **53 hearings** on health insurance reform. They spent **8 days marking up the legislation** – the longest markup in 22 years – during which they considered **135 amendments**.
- The Senate HELP Committee held more than **47 bipartisan hearings**, roundtables, and walkthroughs on health insurance reform. They considered **300 amendments during a 13 day markup**.
- The Senate Finance Committee posted their legislation online for 6 days before the markup.
- The Senate HELP Committee posted their legislation online for 6 days before the markup.
- The Senate spent **25 consecutive days in session on health reform**, the second longest consecutive session in history.
- In total, the Senate has spent **more than 160 hours considering the health reform legislation**.
- The final Senate bill includes **147 Republican amendments**.