

McCain's Approach to Health Care



The Insurance Industry over America's Families

Soaring health care costs are forcing wages down for people lucky enough to have insurance. Another 47 million are uninsured. Although John McCain says he intends to combat rising costs, his proposals protect insurance company profits at the expense of working families. We call on John McCain to reconsider his policies and join us in working to ensure quality health care for all.

McCain's Health Care Plan Leaves Working Families on Their Own...

McCain Would Leave Workers to Fight Insurance Companies Alone. McCain's plan undermines employer-based health care and pushes workers into the private market to fight big insurance companies on their own. Insurance companies would be able to weed out workers with real health care needs, charge excessive premiums and limit benefits. (Health08.org, Forum, 10/31/07; The Commonwealth Fund, 1/08; Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 7/31/07)

McCain's Plan Increases Our Costs. McCain would make health premiums part of taxable income, essentially creating a new tax on working families. His "tax credit" proposal equals less than half the average premium cost while driving costs up by promoting high-deductible health savings account plans. (Health08.org, Forum, 10/31/07; Kaiser/HRET Employer Health Benefits 2007 Annual Survey; Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 9/20/06, 4/5/06)

McCain Does Not Seek to Reduce the Number of Uninsured. McCain does not focus on covering the 47 million uninsured—one in seven Americans. He says, "The problem is not that most Americans lack adequate health insurance." (*Wall Street Journal*, 10/11/07; Speech at Des Moines Rotary lunch, 10/11/07)

...While Rewarding Insurance Companies and McCain's Friends

McCain's Tax Plan Gives Top 10 Health Insurance Companies \$1.9 Billion a Year in Tax Breaks. McCain's plan to cut the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 25 percent would deliver a \$1.9 billion tax reduction to the 10 largest health insurance and managed care companies. (Center for American Progress, 4/9/08)

McCain's Advisers, Staffers and Fundraisers Have Made Over \$140 Million as Health Care and Insurance Industry Lobbyists.

A total of 38 lobbyists from the health care and insurance industries are listed as fundraisers, co-hosts of events or staffers for McCain's campaign. They have made more than \$140 million in lobbying fees since 1998 from health and insurance interests. (Public Campaign Action Fund analysis of data obtained from the Center for Responsive Politics)

His Plan Allows Insurance Companies to Avoid Consumer Protections, Lowering Health Care Quality. Many states have laws regulating health care plan quality by mandating that basic services be included. McCain's proposal would circumvent these laws, resulting in lower-quality coverage that avoids consumer protections. (McCain campaign website, accessed 2/21/08)