

**National
Coalition on
Health Care**

PRESS STATEMENT

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**NCHC WHITE PAPER IDENTIFIES OVER \$1 TRILLION IN COST-
SAVINGS: NOW IT'S TIME TO PUT FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND
PATIENT WELL-BEING BEFORE PROFITS**

The National Coalition on Health Care^[1] applauds the President and Members of Congress for having made more progress towards reforming America's health care system than has been accomplished by previous attempts over the past century. But, much more remains to be done to provide better access to care, affordable coverage and improved health care quality and safety without unnecessary tax increases or fueling excessive profits for some elements of the health industry.

Now it is time for all industry stakeholders to join the Coalition in putting affordability, fiscal responsibility and patient well-being before profits. Today, America has a health care system that is projected to waste an estimated \$10 trillion over the next ten years -- an estimated \$800 billion or more per year. It is projected that 30 to 40 percent of all direct health care outlays are the result of poor quality care, consisting primarily of overuse, misuse, and waste. Moreover, an estimated 98,000 lives are lost annually in the U.S. due to preventable medical errors.

The Coalition supports robust cost containment strategies linked directly to improving access to care, affordable coverage and the improvement of health care quality and safety. Unfortunately, too much legislative attention is being directed to how to raise taxes to pay for

^[1] The National Coalition on Health Care is a non-partisan organization of organizations — made up of roughly 85 of America's large and small businesses, unions, civil rights and advocacy groups, health care providers, associations of religious congregations, pension and health funds, and groups representing patients and consumers. The Coalition is the Nation's oldest and most diverse alliance working for the achievement of comprehensive health care reform. Collectively, our members represent — as employees, members, or congregants — at least 150 million Americans. The Coalition is united by our members' commitment to five goals for a reformed health care system:

- Health Care Coverage for All
- Better Cost Management
- Improvement of Health Care Quality and Safety
- Equitable Financing
- Simplified Administration.

extending coverage to more -- but not all -- Americans. Instead, our elected officials should be focusing on how to capture and utilize of all the wasted money already in the system in order to cover everyone while controlling the unsustainable rise in private and public sector health care expenditures.

The Coalition's diverse membership has made a commitment to shared sacrifice and shared responsibility in order to secure and sustain equitable health system reform but many major industry stakeholders have at best given lip service to this notion. Some-- like the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America will be gaining tens of millions of new customers and patients -- stand to reap enormous windfall profits. Industry needs to come back to the table in order to contribute their fair share of cost savings. Affordable reform that is patient-focused, value-based and fosters continuous quality and outcomes improvement is within reach. Only a lack of political will by our elected officials would explain failure enact it.

The just released white paper includes more than twelve interdependent policy recommendations that -- if implemented -- could reap well over \$1 trillion in cost savings during the next decade. The recommendations encompass workforce issues, codification and acceleration of savings measures including innovations and administrative simplification; aggressive patient-centered payment and delivery reforms; care coordination; and improved governance related to cost-containment as well as fraud prevention and liability reforms.

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The National Coalition on Health Care is the nation's oldest, most broadly based, non-profit, non-partisan alliance working for comprehensive health care reform. The Coalition has over 85 member organizations including large businesses and labor unions, pension funds, insurers, associations of medical organizations, faith-based groups, disability and patient advocacy organizations, and higher education associations which collectively represent more than 150 million Americans.

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