Democratic, Republican Presidential Candidates Supported Health Care Reform for All Americans

In President Obama's recent address to Congress, he said, "[This is] a plan that incorporates ideas from many of the people in this room tonight – Democrats and Republicans." In fact, throughout the 2008 campaign for President, both Democratic and Republican candidates recognized the urgent need to reform America's health care system and put forward detailed plans for debate.

Every day, over 10,000 Americans lose their health insurance and those with insurance are left to pay the price – a $1000 a year in higher premiums on average to help cover the health care costs of the uninsured. And premiums continue to skyrocket, a family policy offered by employers was $13,375 in 2009, a 5% increase from last year.

There is widespread, bipartisan agreement that without reform, American families will continue to struggle under the rising costs of health care with no end in sight. It is critical that Washington act this year on reform.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES	REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES
Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL): "We'll guarantee health care for anyone who needs it, make it affordable for anyone who wants it…" – *99th NAACP Convention, 7/12/08*	**Sen. John McCain, (R-AZ):** "[W]e should have available and affordable health care to every American citizen, to every family member." – *Presidential Debate, 10/07/08*
Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY): "...I believe everyone, every man, woman and child, should have quality, affordable health care in America..." – *From campaign web site, 2007*	**Fred Thompson, former U.S. Senator from Tennessee:** "Every American should be able to get health insurance coverage that is affordable, fully accessible, and portable." – *From article entitled "Healthcare" on campaign web site, 2007*
Sen. Joe Biden (D-DE): "I'd insure every single, solitary child in America and make sure catastrophic insurance exists, and for every single person in America, while we move toward a national health care system covering anybody." – *Democratic Primary Forum, 8/08/07*	**Mike Huckabee, former Governor of Arkansas:** "[I]f a real health care system exists, it has three components: It has affordability, it has quality, and it has accessibility." – *Facebook/WMUR-NH Republican Primary Debate, 1/05/06*
Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-CT): "I want every single American in this country to have as good a health care program as every member of the US Congress. That ought to be something we're going to stand there and fight for." – *SEIU Democratic Health Care Forum, 3/24/07*	**Mitt Romney, former Governor of Massachusetts:** "The right answer is to get people insured, all of our citizens insured so they don't have to worry about losing their insurance if they change jobs or have a preexisting condition." – *Republican Debate, 10/21/07*

Gov. Bill Richardson (D-NM): "Every American—black, brown, white, yellow, rich or poor—everyone should have access to the best possible health plan." – *Democratic Primary Debate, 9/09/07*

Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH): "Let the United States be like every other industrialized democracy in having a health-care plan, a national plan where we take care of our people." – *Huffington Post Democratic on-line debate, 9/13/07*

Mike Gravel, former U.S. Senator from Alaska:
"My plan…provides standard, quality healthcare for all Americans regardless of health or wealth." – *4/22/08*

Rudy Giuliani, former Mayor of New York City: "What we should do is increase the number of people who have private insurance." – *Republican Debate, 8/05/07*