

# **BILL CLINTON ON QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE**

Health care should be a right, not a privilege. And it can be: America has the potential to provide the world's best, most advanced and cost-effective health care. What we need are leaders willing to take on the insurance companies, the drug companies, and the health care bureaucracies and bring health care costs down.

## **THE CLINTON PLAN**

### **Take on the insurance industry**

- Cap national spending to control health care costs.
- Crack down on billing fraud and eliminate incentives that invite abuse.
- Replace expensive and complex procedures with a streamlined billing system.
- Provide everyone with "smart cards" coded with their personal medical information.
- Crack down on billing fraud and remove incentives that invite abuse.

### **Stop drug price gouging**

- Eliminate tax breaks for drug companies that raise their prices faster than incomes rise.
- Discourage drug companies from spending more on marketing than on R&D.

### **Establish a core benefits package**

- Guarantee a basic health benefits package that includes preventative treatments.
- Allow consumers to choose where they receive care.
- Expand Medicare for elderly and disabled Americans to include more long-term care.

### **Develop health networks**

- Give consumers access to a variety of local health networks made up of insurers, hospitals, clinics and doctors.
- Enable the health networks to receive a fixed amount of money for each consumer.

### **Guarantee universal coverage**

- Guarantee every American a core benefits package set by the health standards board either through their employer or by buying into a high-quality public program.
- Limit costs for small employers by allowing them to group together and to purchase less costly health insurance, or to buy into the public program.
- Phase in business responsibilities, covering employees through the public program in the interim.
- Improve preventive and primary care through community-based solutions such as school-based clinics and community health centers.

## **THE CLINTON RECORD IN ARKANSAS**

- Provided outspoken support for school-based health clinics; 21 now operate in Arkansas.
- By expanding pre-natal and post-natal care, helped reduce Arkansas' infant mortality rate by 43 percent between 1978 and 1990.
- Proposed and passed a "Health Care Access Law" to provide universal health coverage for all Arkansas children under age 16.
- Established the ElderChoices program to offer senior citizens a choice between nursing home care or care at home.
- Strengthened the Arkansas State Employees Health Insurance Program.
- Developed several key programs to improve rural health.