

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.
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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.