



# National Health Council

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**National Health Council**  
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Members of the 111th Congress  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

The National Health Council (NHC), an organization providing a united voice for more than 133 million people with chronic diseases and disabilities and their family caregivers, strongly supports the efforts of Congress to enact meaningful health care reform that will benefit the patient community.

The NHC emphatically urges you to support the health care reform reconciliation bill currently being debated in the Senate to accomplish this long-sought goal. It is crucial both to help those most in need due to chronic conditions and disabilities and to stabilize the health and economic underpinnings of our nation.

People living with chronic conditions and their family caregivers may not appreciate the nuts and bolts of passing legislation. They do, however, understand the gravity of their own personal situation. The everyday realities for the people the NHC represents continue to be filled with health challenges and financial uncertainty as they struggle to maintain their health, independence, and well-being. They are looking to Congress and the Administration to transcend partisan differences and provide meaningful health care reform for all Americans – particularly those most in need.

The bill currently under consideration is the final step in bringing much needed care to the patients the NHC represents. In addition to forthcoming reforms such as the ban on denials based on pre-existing conditions, people with chronic diseases and disabilities stand to benefit immediately from critical reforms such as an end to insurance policy rescissions, elimination of annual and lifetime caps, and the creation of high-risk pools. Families with children who are ill will have greater security knowing their child cannot be denied insurance coverage due to a pre-existing condition and that older children can remain on a parent's insurance policy until the age of 26.

The NHC deeply appreciates the months of hard work Congress has already invested in health care reform, and we have worked closely with many Members to ensure that the interests of the patient and caregiver community are addressed in the final legislation.

The prospect of meaningful health care reform has never been closer. The NHC strongly urges you to complete the process by passing the health care reconciliation bill, which will be an unprecedented step in ensuring that the health care needs of all Americans are met. We look forward to continuing to serve as a partner and resource in the effort. Please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Cain, our Assistant Vice President of Government Affairs, if you or your staff would like to discuss this in greater detail. You may also reach me on my direct, private line at 202-973-0546 or via e-mail at [mweinberg@nhcouncil.org](mailto:mweinberg@nhcouncil.org).

Sincerely,

Myrl Weinberg, CAE  
President