

Consumer Voices for Coverage

Strengthening State Advocacy Networks
to Expand Health Coverage

CVC News and Notes

February 2010

Policy Priorities

It is often helpful to know what your fellow advocates are addressing during the legislative session. We are sharing this information in an effort to keep you informed of your colleagues' [priority areas](#) so you may call upon one another for advice, resources, etc. to assist you in your efforts. Based on the advocate survey that one advocate from each state took for Community Catalyst late last year, we've compiled a list of the top three priority areas for all the CVC states. We hope this will help you connect and collaborate with advocates working in similar areas. If you have any questions about what is within this document or would like direct contact information for advocates addressing your specific issues, please contact Jacquie Anderson, anderson@communitycatalyst.org.

Lobbying Reminder

As we head into the heat of the debate, it is important to remind ourselves of the lines we cannot cross as RWJF grantees and stewards of the Consumer Voices for Coverage program. [This PowerPoint](#) will provide a quick refresher about lobbying at this critical time in health care reform.

Upcoming Community Catalyst Conference Calls

In the coming months, we will be offering the following conference calls as a resource to you. We will send out more information once the calls have been scheduled.

- Train the trainer: Tools to instruct spokespeople and media pitching
 - Working with disease-focused organizations
 - Consumer assistance programs
 - Increasing state revenue to fund health care reform
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Congressional February Recess: Health Care Reform Activities

Congress will begin its week-long February recess on the 15th. As Senators and House Representatives return to their home districts, it's critical they hear from constituents and advocates that America still wants Congress to pass national health care reform legislation.

Community Catalyst has prepared a number of resources to help localize the national debate and to remind people what health care reform is really about: the consumers. We have sent these out through e-mail alerts, which you can find on the [Community Catalyst website](#). If you're using Twitter, please use the hashtag [#FebHCRevents](#) to publicize your February recess health care reform activities and to stay in the loop with organizations across the nation.

In addition, GYMR has created [this resource](#) to help CVC grantees plan activities and events during the congressional recess. These activities expand on some activities outlined in recent Community Catalyst alerts, but they steer clear of lobbying.

Another resource we've developed is our new report, [Building on the Foundation: Consumer Advocacy's Role in Successful Health Care Reform](#) (PDF), which outlines the substantial effort required to implement health care reform, the key role of consumer advocates, and the vital need for funder participation. Please also subscribe to our blog, [Health Policy Hub](#), for weekly policy updates.

We've all worked hard to move health care reform as far as it is now; a strong all-out push is crucial to getting the job done.