



## **Sample Letters to the Editor Positive Messages About Health Care Reform**

*Here are some sample letters pointing to the positive aspects of health care reform. Please use these to combat the negative messages about reform by personalizing them and tailoring them to local events or articles in your newspapers.*

### **From a small business owner regarding legal challenges**

As the owner of [BUSINESS] in [CITY], I know the new national health care reform law will help small business owners like me to better afford health insurance for their employees, and to ensure the plans we choose from don't max out or rescind coverage when someone actually gets sick.

This new law provides tax credits to small business owners, allowing me to keep offering good health care to my employees and stay in the black without sacrificing growth. Congress told insurers that the jig's up on years of unfair practices and putting profits ahead of people. This is the most important law I've seen in my lifetime, and I know it will have immediate positive benefits for my business, my employees and my family.

Legal challenges to health care reform will cost taxpayers money. Both legislative challenges and lawsuits will be resolved in the courtroom at taxpayers' expense. With no legal merit to the arguments against national reform, why waste taxpayer dollars and slow the path to needed reform? With constraints on state budgets and resources, this political posturing is a poor use of taxpayer dollars.

### **From a health care reform supporter regarding legal challenges, Option 1**

Everyone knows someone – a family member, friend or neighbor – who was let down by their insurance when they needed it, found themselves in medical debt, or didn't get medication because they couldn't afford it. Those days are over.

No longer will we live one procedure or pink slip away from a health care crisis. This is why I don't understand the unfounded legal challenges to the law. The majority of legal experts, including conservatives, agree that the national health care reform law is constitutional, supported by almost 70 years of court cases.

The new health care reform law will help millions of people across our country, including people in [STATE]: [NUMBER] small businesses who will get tax credits, [NUMBER] seniors who will get help paying for medication, [NUMBER] children with special health care needs.

We must stand up for people who need the law to protect them. Slowing the implementation of health care reform through legal action has a human cost.

### **From a health care reform supporter regarding legal challenges, Option 2**

Before the ink was even dry on President Obama's signature, the new health care reform law was under attack. We need clear information about the facts of reform, not misrepresentations based on politics. This is an historic law that will help millions of American families get better, more affordable health care – some who will be insured for the first time in their lives.

Claims that the federal government cannot require people to obtain insurance coverage or impact the powers of states do not stand up in court. These arguments have been resolved in the federal government's favor time and again. The courts have ruled repeatedly that the federal government has the power to establish programs to help people.

We cannot stand by while superficial challenges to the law are mounted. These grandstanding tactics delay help for people who need it and cost taxpayer money.

### **From an insured person who supports reform regarding the argument the passage wasn't democratic**

I am lucky to have good insurance that gives me access to the health care at a price I can afford. I am no more deserving than my neighbor; I want everyone to have access to quality health care, so I am thrilled with the new national health care reform law.

Now the elderly couple at my church will be able to afford their medications. The small businesses on Main Street will be able to keep their doors open and afford insurance for their families and employees that provides real benefits. And my cousin's child living across the country, who was born with a heart defect, can no longer be denied insurance.

Throughout the past year, people who oppose reform have voiced their dissent. However, claims that the new law is undemocratic are simply untrue. The majority of Members of Congress voted for passage, and President Obama signed the bill into law – that is democracy.

Although political discourse is an important part of our democratic system, political opposition misrepresenting the truth is counterproductive. We cannot delay implementation of reform while anti-reformists fight the changes so many in our community need.

### **From a doctor**

As a physician, I know that what's on the line with the success of the new national health care reform law is much more than elections – it's millions of American lives. A law that helps real people rather than political grandstanders is just what this doctor ordered.

Too often, I had patients forgo treatments or medication because they could not afford them. These patients were hardworking individuals who paid for health insurance all their lives. But when they finally needed it – when they suffered injuries or a family member fell ill – they found their insurance plan did not cover nearly enough. No longer. The comprehensive health care reform law can cure these problems.

This new law means insured individuals aren't bankrupted by overwhelming out-of-pocket expenses or lifetime caps. It holds insurance companies accountable for promoting patient care rather than profits.

Many of the people bringing legal challenges have political agendas. A high-profile challenge gives these politicians a platform to cultivate political support, including media coverage. We can't let politics get in the way of good policy. Our health care system needs the reforms this law will bring.

### **From a nurse**

As a nurse at [HOSPITAL/PRACTICE/CLINIC], I have seen people who need and deserve quality health care, but go without. There were many reasons for this: their employer didn't offer health insurance, they couldn't afford to pay, or an insurer denied them coverage.

The new health care reform law will end these unfair practices and help people get health care no matter where they work. And it will improve the way we deliver care, by investing in primary care and community health centers like [NAME], and by rewarding better care.

When I was growing up, I wanted to be a nurse to care for people. Now that I am, I see that it takes so many more people than just me – in fact, it takes a system. The American health care system was broken, but the new law will help fix it. Now doctors and nurses will be able to provide better care for the people in our communities. Why are people trying to fight a law that will help millions of people across our country receive insurance, including [NUMBER] in [STATE], and will help people like me provide the health care they need?

Most Americans wanted our health care system to change; now we must stand by the law that will make the system work better for all of us.

### **From an emergency room physician**

I'm often saddened by the cases that come into the emergency room at [HOSPITAL] in [CITY, STATE]. As an ER physician, time and time again I have been confronted with tragedy that could have been easily avoided with better care upfront. That's why I'm elated the new health care reform law will help people get the care they need early, instead of coming to me in critical condition.

The new law mandates that insurance covers prevention and wellness visits, exempting them from deductibles and co-payments. Now people can see a doctor to manage their diabetes or hypertension without worrying about cost, and they never have to end up on my table with an amputation or a heart attack.

We cannot allow special interests to use false arguments to distract us from the need to put the new law into action. Millions of lives depend on it.

### **From an advocate regarding supporters**

As a consumer advocate who participated in the health care reform debate over the last year, I want to thank and commend the many people in our [CITY OR STATE] who stood up and made their voices heard.

In the face of opposition and misinformation, our network of [NUMBER] supporters from all walks of life fought for health care reform, knowing what it would mean for our community. And we know our work is not done. We will continue to ensure health care reform is implemented in our state to help our families.

The new law will help middle-class families by curbing costs and protecting them from crushing medical debt. It will help seniors caught in the prescription drug doughnut hole to finally afford medications they need. And now, fellow [STATERS] who don't have health insurance will be able to access care – a proud legacy for our country.

We will continue to work on behalf of people across [STATE] to help bring the benefits of health care reform to all members of our community, and to provide information to people seeking the truth about how the new law will affect them.