



Talking Points – The Path to Health Care Reform is Passing the Senate Bill

Talking Points for House Offices:

- We need you to vote yes on the Senate health reform bill that will make vast improvements to our broken health care system.
- The status quo is not an option.
- Health care is more than a political issue, it is a personal, everyday issue that impacts the lives and livelihood of your constituents. They still critically need health care reform.
- When you vote in favor of the Senate bill, our organization and your constituents will stand behind you to support your decision.
- Please do not let distortions by the media and opposition dictate the outcome of this essential legislation.
- We understand and empathize with how hard you have worked to craft and advance your bill – I am asking you to try and set that aside and support the Senate bill which has many of the same underlying provisions.

Key Messages for Partners on Why Need to Keep Fighting:

Despite recent changes on Capitol Hill, the reasons we need health care have not changed; our work for guaranteed quality, affordable health care for all cannot stop. It may be a steep hill, but it is one we must climb.

The fact remains that our health care system is broken, and the problems will only get worse if we don't address them now. Real people need real help, and we have to keep working – in spite of issue fatigue, in spite of setbacks – and keep moving forward.

We cannot afford the status quo. Losing this chance to reform the health care system is not an option. The Senate bill will help people with pre-existing conditions, children with special health care needs, seniors struggling to pay for their medications, and small business owners. Health care reform will stabilize families' finances, reduce the risk of medical debt and provide peace of mind to Americans across the country

We do not believe the Massachusetts election was a referendum on national health care reform, but there are important lessons to take away from this election: we cannot take any vote, seat or group for granted; we must be as dedicated to building and communicating support for health care reform as our opponents are to its failure; and we need to be the ones to define the issue for voters and Members.

Many challenges lie ahead, but we started this debate without enough votes to pass reform in either the U.S. House or Senate. Today, majorities in both chambers support passage. We have worked hard to build that support, and the finish line is within reach. It's time to put the politics aside. Passing health care reform is a moral imperative, not a political one.

Now is the time for Americans across the country to keep telling our Members of Congress that we need quality, affordable health care. Members need to know that their constituents want real reform. Working together, we can make a difference in the lives of people who need our help.

In spite of what you are hearing in the media, we still believe the door is open and it is our job to make the case for getting this done. We are within reach of an historic achievement, and we cannot turn back now. The only path for realizing meaningful health care reform at this point is the House passing the Senate bill.