



Care for US Candidate: Health Care Issues Summary

Congratulations again on your endorsement from the Committee to Protect Health Care! As a national mobilization of over 20,000 physicians and health care advocates, we appreciate your commitment to health care issues — issues that are critical not just to patients but to Americans nationwide.

We know that Americans are eager for lower health care costs, to keep the protections of the Affordable Care Act, and to have access to abortion restored — and for leaders in Congress who will fight for these things. But as Care for U.S. Candidates, it's important for you to communicate on these issues in an impactful way that connects with Americans and shows them that you're on their side.

We have compiled summary information, based on up-to-date publicly available research and testing, that you can use to communicate effectively with voters on key the critical issues patients face day-to-day.

General Issue Guidance

Health care is a winning issue — especially lowering health care costs. It can be helpful to frame health care as a pocketbook issue. Advocating for lowering prescription drug costs and health care premiums is a popular and compelling way to connect with Americans as other living costs continue to rise.



Affordable Care Act, Medicare, and Medicaid

What to Know: The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is more popular with voters than ever, with 62 percent of U.S. adults holding a favorable opinion. The ACA's provisions protecting people with pre-existing medical conditions are even more popular, but people may forget that this and other provisions are BECAUSE of the ACA.

Remind people that the provisions of the ACA they've come to rely on and value exist BECAUSE of the ACA. Frame efforts to repeal the ACA or cut Medicaid and Medicare as efforts to "take away" provisions that Americans have come to rely on and value.

Issue Guidance:

The ACA has made health care more affordable and more accessible to tens of millions of Americans, via many critical measures, including:

- Allowing Americans to sign up for affordable health coverage through Marketplace plans
- Prohibiting insurance companies from denying patients coverage, or charging them more, because of pre-existing conditions
- Requiring insurance companies to cover preventive services at no cost to patients
- Banning insurance companies from charging women more for the same care as men, and from putting annual and lifetime caps on insurance coverage
- Allowing young adults to stay on their parent's insurance plans until 26
- Connecting 38.8 million children to health care through Medicaid, the insurance program for low-income Americans, and CHIP, the Children's Health Insurance Programs
- Allowing states to expand Medicaid with federal funding, as all but 10 states have done.

Repealing the ACA would take away health care for millions of Americans, including those with pre-existing conditions, risking their health and security.

Cutting funding for Medicare and Medicaid would jeopardize health care for millions of senior, disabled, and low-income Americans.

Americans deserve the security that comes with affordable health care access. I'll defend the ACA, Medicare, and Medicaid from threats of repeal or funding cuts. I'll also defend Medicare from efforts to raise the age of eligibility.





Inflation Reduction Act

What to Know: The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is extremely popular among Americans — although not by name. Seventy-one percent support it when it's described as “giving Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug prices, bringing down health insurance premiums” etc. BUT only half have seen, heard, or read some amount about the IRA.

Talk about the provisions of the IRA on their own and tie them back to the IRA.

Issue Guidance:

The Inflation Reduction Act:

- Empowered Medicare to negotiate prescription drug costs for seniors
- Capped out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs for seniors at \$2000 per year
- Capped the cost of insulin for seniors at \$35 per month
- Extended tax credits for families buying health insurance on the ACA Marketplace, helping lower premium costs.

We should protect and build upon the IRA to help reduce prescription drug costs for all Americans, regardless of age, not just our seniors.

We must stand up to Big Pharma and ensure all Americans can afford the prescription drugs they need to live and thrive.





Site-Neutral Payments

What to Know: Most Americans probably aren't familiar with the concept of site-neutral payments, but they're certainly familiar with rising hospital bills and health care costs generally. Site-neutral payments offer a solution to help address these rising costs that is bipartisan, realistic, and popular — 85 percent of voters support limiting outpatient fees to the same price charged by doctors in the community.

Issue Guidance:

- Patients should be charged the same price when they receive the same medical service, no matter where they receive it. Unfortunately today, big hospital systems are buying up small physician practices and then charging patients more to receive the same care there. By changing the logos on the door of the physician practices, big hospital systems are making billions more dollars, at the expense of patients.
- This is just a new way for big hospitals to game the system and make more money. Just because a big hospital now owns a regular doctor's office, they can increase the prices.
- As hospitals continue to consolidate, this problem will only get worse, as patient care is shifted from lower-cost options in physician offices to hospital "outpatient departments." And as these billions in health care costs accumulate for patients, insurance premiums increase for everyone.
- I'll work to pass common sense, bipartisan solutions to protect patients from being charged more for the same care just because of where they receive it. Ensuring that Americans pay the same price for the same service will save them billions of dollars.





Reproductive Health and Freedom

What to Know: Support for abortion access continues to grow in the wake of the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision that overturned Roe v. Wade. Seventy percent of Americans believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases. Four in five Americans support Congress passing legislation to protect contraception access.

What NOT to Do:

- Stigmatize abortion (such as calling for abortion to be “rare,” calling pregnancies “unwanted,” etc.)
- Refer to pregnancies as “babies” or women/patients as “mothers”
- Talk about women dying from illegal abortions pre-Roe (although this did of course happen, there are safe, legal methods to self-manage abortions now, and we don't want to scare patients away from seeking care).

What TO Do:

- Lead with our shared values, such as freedom, bodily autonomy, dignity, health, and privacy.
- Share stories of how abortion bans have harmed people in your or other states.
- Depending on the people you're speaking to, acknowledge that we may have different personal feelings about abortion.

Issue Guidance:

- Decisions around abortion and pregnancy and personal and private, and should be between patients, their doctors, and their families.
- All Americans deserve the freedom to make their own health care decisions, free from government/political interference.
- Abortion bans in states are putting patients' health, future fertility, and very lives at risk.
- I'll fight to prevent a dangerous national abortion ban, help restore abortion access nationwide, and ensure all Americans have access to the reproductive health care they deserve.

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