



Immediate Benefits of Federal Health Care Reform

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will strengthen consumer protections, contain health care costs, lower the costs of insurance premiums and out-of-pocket costs, and require more accountability from health insurance companies. While some of the important aspects of the Act will be phased in through 2014, *many* of the changes will benefit consumers this year and next year. These immediate benefits include:

For All Consumers:

- ▶ New insurance plans will be required to cover preventive services with no co-pays. *Sept. 2010*
- ▶ Insurers will no longer be able to drop people from coverage when they get sick. *Sept. 2010*
- ▶ Health plans will have to spend at least 80% of premiums on medical services. If they spend less, customers will get rebates. *2011*
- ▶ Funding for community health centers will be increased to expand service capacity. *2011*

For Small Businesses:

Businesses with 25 or fewer full time equivalent employees with annual average wages less than \$50,000 can receive tax credits to offset a portion of the workers' premiums. *2010*

For Older Americans and Persons with Disabilities:

Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Part D who spend more than \$2,800 on prescription drugs (and enter the donut hole) will receive a \$250 rebate *this year* and will receive discounts on brand-name drugs *beginning in 2011*. In addition, there will be no copayments or deductibles for preventive services like mammograms and colonoscopies *beginning in 2011*.

For Young Adults:

Young adults will be able to remain on their parents' health insurance up to age 26. *Sept. 2010*

For People with Chronic Health Conditions:

- ▶ Health insurance companies will no longer be able to place lifetime caps on coverage, and are restricted in placing annual limits on coverage. *Sept. 2010*
- ▶ Insurers will not be able to deny coverage to children with pre-existing conditions. *Sept. 2010*
- ▶ An interim high risk pool will provide access to insurance to adults who have not been able to get coverage due to pre-existing conditions. *June 2010*

The federal health care legislation will stabilize families' finances, reduce the risk of medical debt, and provide peace of mind that health care will be there when Americans need it. Passage of health care reform will not only make us healthier, it will create jobs and stimulate the economy. While CBO estimates the cost of the bill to be \$940 billion, it will reduce the deficit by \$130 billion over the first 10 years and \$1.2 trillion in the second 10 years.

The benefits of health care reform will be felt across the economic and political spectrum. As we move forward, more Ohioans will have access to coverage and quality health care. The result will be a truly healthier Ohio.

Future Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage newsletters will provide more detail in each of these areas.

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