



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS® OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

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To the Editor:

While it is encouraging that Senate and House committees are beginning to seriously consider health care reform legislation, it is critical that the U.S. Congress takes action and passes real health care reform in the next few months.

America is facing a health care crisis caused by a combination of skyrocketing costs and an insurance system that leaves 47 million of us without any coverage. The current health care system is endangering both our economy and our health, and voters have made it clear that they want change.

Health care reform legislation must guarantee quality, affordable health care to all U.S. residents, including the choice of a quality, affordable public insurance plan. In addition, it is essential that comparative data on treatments, benefits packages and medical outcomes be made publicly available so that individuals can make informed health decisions.

Congress needs to take additional strong action to reduce the costs of health care for individuals, businesses and communities. As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care. Legislation must provide effective cost controls, equitable distribution of services and allow for efficient and economical delivery of care. Offering everyone a government administered health insurance plan like Medicare that would compete with private health insurance plans will be vital.

Achieving this kind of comprehensive, system-wide reform will take a shared effort by citizens and Congress. We encourage everyone to take a moment to call or write to Senator Kennedy (<http://kennedy.senate.gov>, 202-224-4543), Senator Kerry (<http://kerry.senate.gov>, 202-224-2742), and Congresswoman Niki Tsongas (<http://tsongas.house.gov>, 202-225-3411). Please thank them for their leadership and strong support of real health care reform, and urge them to continue fighting for change. Make your voice heard today!

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