



AFSCME HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA

Why should OCSEA members care about the cost of health care?

Because health care costs affect public employees and their families!



We bargain hard for our benefits, but with health care costs growing three times faster than wages, we're often forced to give up well-deserved wage increases just to keep our health care. At the same time, more than 47 million Americans don't have health insurance because they can't afford it.

BUT it's not just families who can't afford health insurance, it's also governments. Governments purchase health care for a variety of groups including the sick, disabled and elderly as well as inmates in correctional facilities. When health care costs go up, government budgets are squeezed. When that happens, OCSEA members' job security is at risk.

WHAT THE PLAN WILL DO:

Affordable coverage

Controls skyrocketing costs and provides affordable coverage for working families, retirees and employers. Premiums and out-of-pocket costs should be based on a family's ability to pay. Costs should be controlled while improving quality by using public purchasing power to lower drug and other prices.

Choice of doctors

Guarantees your ability to choose your own doctors. Reform must provide a choice of doctors, health providers and coverage plans that meet our families' varied health care needs.

Public protections

Requires government to serve as a watchdog to control costs, and ensure quality and fairness. Government must establish and enforce rules to rein in harmful insurance and drug company practices and pricing. Government should be an advocate for consumers to assure that insurers do not deny care, raise rates or drop coverage based on pre-existing medical conditions.

Quality health care for all

Provides comprehensive, high-quality care for all.

We need guaranteed coverage for all – with a standard for health benefits that provides all necessary care. Reform must provide appropriate funding and support for existing public insurance programs, health care institutions and health workers, and ensure equity for all communities.

Choice of Public Plan

Offers you the choice of a public plan as an alternative to private insurance. Everyone should: 1) have the right to keep the insurance they receive on the job, or 2) join a quality, public insurance plan that guarantees affordable coverage without a private insurer "middleman," or 3) choose another private plan.

Employer Responsibility

Lowers employer costs and requires them to pay their fair share. Reform must provide affordable and predictable health costs to public employers and businesses alike. All payers in the health care system have a responsibility to fairly contribute to workers' health care.



To find out more and take action today, go to www.ocsea.org/hcan