

PRESS STATEMENT

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Yesterday's special election in Massachusetts compels all health care reform proponents to recalibrate their strategic assumptions. However, it cannot in any way lessen the intensity of efforts to enact reform. Nothing has diminished the urgent need to enact affordable and sustainable health system reform.

Recommendations of the NCHC Action Fund¹:

1. White House and Congressional leaders must accelerate efforts to work out the differences between the Senate and the House bills;
2. Simultaneously, they must weigh all possible political and procedural options;
3. All related votes should be postponed until after Senator-elect Brown has been sworn into office; and
4. Finally, proponents of health care reform must more effectively address cost containment and affordability issues. Contrary to today's public perception, every family in America should understand that reform will improve both health care security and economic well being.

We continue to believe that the enactment of legislation providing quality, affordable, and sustainable health care for everyone is eminently doable over the next several weeks.

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¹ *The NCHC Action Fund is a 501(c)(4) not for profit organization devoted to public education, and advocacy to secure stable affordable health care for America. The National Coalition on Health Care, the oldest and most diverse alliance of groups committed to securing and sustaining health care system reform, is a 501(c)(3) organization. Both are located at 1120 G Street, NW, Suite 810, Washington, DC 20005. Phone: (202) 638-7151. This statement does not necessarily reflect a consensus of the National Coalition Health Care (NCHC) as some Coalition members do not, or cannot, take positions either on specific legislation or on any policies outside their respective mission areas. However, all that can endorse broad policy positions do support cost-containment as part of comprehensive system reform.*