



Fast Facts from EBRI

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Goals for Reforming the U.S. Health Care System

WASHINGTON—What are Americans' priorities when it comes to reforming the nation's health care system?

The top priorities can be summed up in three words: quality, cost, access, according to 2008 Health Confidence Survey. Results were published in the Employee Benefit Research Institute's October 2008 *EBRI Notes*.

Here are the survey items with the highest *extremely* or *very important* ratings for health care system reform:

- Providing high quality care: 93 percent.
- Making health care more affordable: 90 percent.
- Making sure the system supports the development of new technologies: 87 percent.
- Making sure people can select the doctor or hospital of their choice: 84 percent.
- Providing health insurance coverage to all Americans: 79 percent.

The survey also found strong support for tax breaks to help expand health insurance coverage. In order to make sure all Americans have access to health insurance, 87 percent of Americans report they would support tax breaks to help people pay for coverage they purchase on their own, and 84 percent would support tax breaks to help people pay for employer coverage.

In addition, the survey found that:

- Seventy-eight percent say they would support allowing uninsured people to buy into government programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid.
- Eighty-three percent would support allowing the uninsured to buy the same health insurance coverage offered to government employees.
- Seventy-seven percent would support expanding government programs.
- Seventy-five percent favor requiring all employers to pay toward subsidized health insurance for employees.
- Sixty-eight percent support requiring everyone to participate in some kind of health insurance plan.

The Health Confidence Survey, now in its 11th year, is co-sponsored by the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) and Mathew Greenwald & Associates, a market research firm. Full results, along with methodology, appear in the October *EBRI Notes*, available at www.ebri.org/pdf/notespdf/EBRI_Notes_10-2008.pdf

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