

# **HEALTH REFORM: THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW**

## *U.S. Presidents from Truman to Nixon to Obama Supported Health Reform for All Americans*

***“I am not the first President to take up this cause, but I am determined to be the last.”*** – President Barack Obama, 9/9/09

Over the last six decades, the rising costs of health care and the increasing number of uninsured Americans have been discussed in every presidential campaign and by nearly every Administration and Congress – whether Democratic or Republican. Voters have consistently elected Presidents who recognize the urgent need to reform America’s health care system so that all Americans have access to quality, affordable health care.

Every day, over 10,000 Americans lose their health insurance and those with insurance are left to pay the price – \$1000 a year in higher premiums on average to help cover the health care costs of the uninsured. Americans cannot afford to wait. It is critical that Washington act this year on reform.

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>NUMBER OF UNINSURED</b>
<b><u>President Barack Obama (2009)</u></b> “[T]here is no debate about whether all Americans should have quality, affordable health care – the only question is, how? And the purpose of this forum is to start answering that question – to determine how we <b>lower costs for everyone, improve quality for everyone, and expand coverage to all Americans.</b> ” – March 5, 2009	<b>46.3 Million</b> (2008)
<b><u>President George W. Bush (2002)</u></b> “[A]ll Americans should be able to choose a health care plan that <b>meets their needs at affordable prices.</b> When people have good choices, when people are given different options, health plans have to compete for business – which means higher quality and better coverage.” – February 11, 2002	<b>40.6 Million</b>
<b><u>President Bill Clinton (1994)</u></b> “ <b>The time has come to pull together and work in a bipartisan manner to deliver guaranteed health care coverage to all Americans.</b> ” – July 29, 1994	<b>40.6 Million</b>
<b><u>President George H. W. Bush (1992)</u></b> “ <b>Now while most people in this country are provided the highest quality health care in the world, millions of others are uninsured.</b> And those are the ones we've got to worry about. <b>They are the ones that must be covered.</b> ” – May 13, 1992	<b>37.1 Million</b>
<b><u>President Jimmy Carter (1979)</u></b> “ <b>A universal, comprehensive national health insurance program is one of the major unfinished items on America's social agenda...</b> The National Health Plan I propose will provide millions of our citizens with better health, greater economic security, and more productive, dignified, and hopeful lives. <b>The American people have waited long enough.</b> ” – June 12, 1979	<b>29.8 Million</b> (1980)

<p><b><u>President Gerald Ford (1976)</u></b></p> <p>“Let us affirm that this national legislation is only the beginning of our effort to upgrade and perpetuate this part of our total health care system so no individual in this country will lack help whenever or wherever he needs it.” – November 4, 1976</p>	<p><b>26.6 Million</b></p>
<p><b><u>President Richard Nixon (1974)</u></b></p> <p>“Good health care should be readily available to all of our citizens.” – February 18, 1971</p> <p>“We must have legislation to insure that every American has financial access to high quality health care.” – May 20, 1974</p>	<p><b>24.4 Million</b></p>
<p><b><u>President John F. Kennedy (1962, 1965)</u></b></p> <p>“Good health is a prerequisite to the enjoyment of ‘pursuit of happiness.’ Whenever the miracles of modern medicine are beyond the reach of any group of Americans, for whatever reason-- economic, geographic, occupational or other--we must find a way to meet their needs and fulfill their hopes. For one true measure of a nation is its success in fulfilling the promise of a better life for each of its members. Let this be the measure of our nation.” – February 27, 1962</p> <p>“Our first concern must be to assure that the advance of medical knowledge leaves none behind. We can--and we must--strive now to assure the availability of and accessibility to the best health care for all Americans, regardless of age or geography or economic status.” – January 7, 1965</p>	<p><b>N/A*</b></p>
<p><b><u>President Dwight D. Eisenhower (1955)</u></b></p> <p>“The health of our people is one of our most precious assets. Preventable sickness should be prevented; knowledge available to combat disease and disability should be fully used. Otherwise, we as a people are guilty not only of neglect of human suffering but also of wasting our national strength. Constant advances in medical care are not available to enough of our citizens. Clearly our nation must do more to reduce the impact of accident and disease. Two fundamental problems confront us: first, high and ever-rising costs of health services; second, serious gaps and shortages in these services.” – January 6, 1955</p>	<p><b>N/A*</b></p>
<p><b><u>President Harry S. Truman (1945)</u></b></p> <p>“Millions of our citizens do not now have a full measure of opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health. Millions do not now have protection or security against the economic effects of sickness. The time has arrived for action to help them attain that opportunity and that protection.” – November 19, 1945</p>	<p><b>N/A*</b></p>

\*Number of uninsured was not measured at this time.