Engaging Employers: Creating Health Care Advocates in the Business Community

Employers provide health insurance coverage to over 50 million Americans and their dependents. Yet, despite the value employers place on health care coverage for their workers, many business leaders struggle for reform. The inefficiency of business that offers health insurance, the high cost of benefits, and the complexity of the benefits system are just a few challenges. This report is aimed at helping employers understand the challenges of the current system and take action to improve health care for themselves and their workers.

The report suggests that employers can take several steps to improve health care for their workers. First, they can educate themselves about the current system and the challenges they face. Second, they can work with other employers and stakeholders to develop strategies for reform. Third, they can use their influence to support legislation and policies that improve health care access and affordability.

By taking these steps, employers can become advocates for reform and help improve health care for themselves and their workers.
HISTORICAL AND CURRENT HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

America’s uninsured, starting with expanded coverage for children, a minimum of $4,000 per year for states that choose to expand Medicaid, and America’s elderly, starting with establishing a Medicare drug benefit and setting a ceiling on Medicare copayments, to create a Medicare prescription drug benefit. The Medicare drug benefit will be available to all Medicare beneficiaries, regardless of income. The drug benefit is designed to provide help for Medicare beneficiaries to pay for prescription drugs, and to simplify administrative costs, increase access and quality, and transform the payment system (Davis 2007).

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL MEDICAID PROGRAM

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The California Medicaid Program.

The Commonwealth Fund (New York, NY) released a report that addresses how state health systems are responding to the major transformation in health care in the United States. The report, titled “High Performance Health Systems,” identifies and describes the key characteristics of high-performance health systems.

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