

# Health Reform and Health-System Pharmacy

ASHP Affiliates Webinar  
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American Society of  
Health-System Pharmacists®

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# Topics

- **Context for national health care reform**
- **Why this is an important issue for health-system pharmacy**
- **Pharmacy's advocacy**
- **Opportunities for advocacy by ASHP state affiliates**



Joint Session of Congress,  
February 24, 2009:  
Central themes: Energy, health care,  
education

# Long-Term Imperatives for Health Care Reform

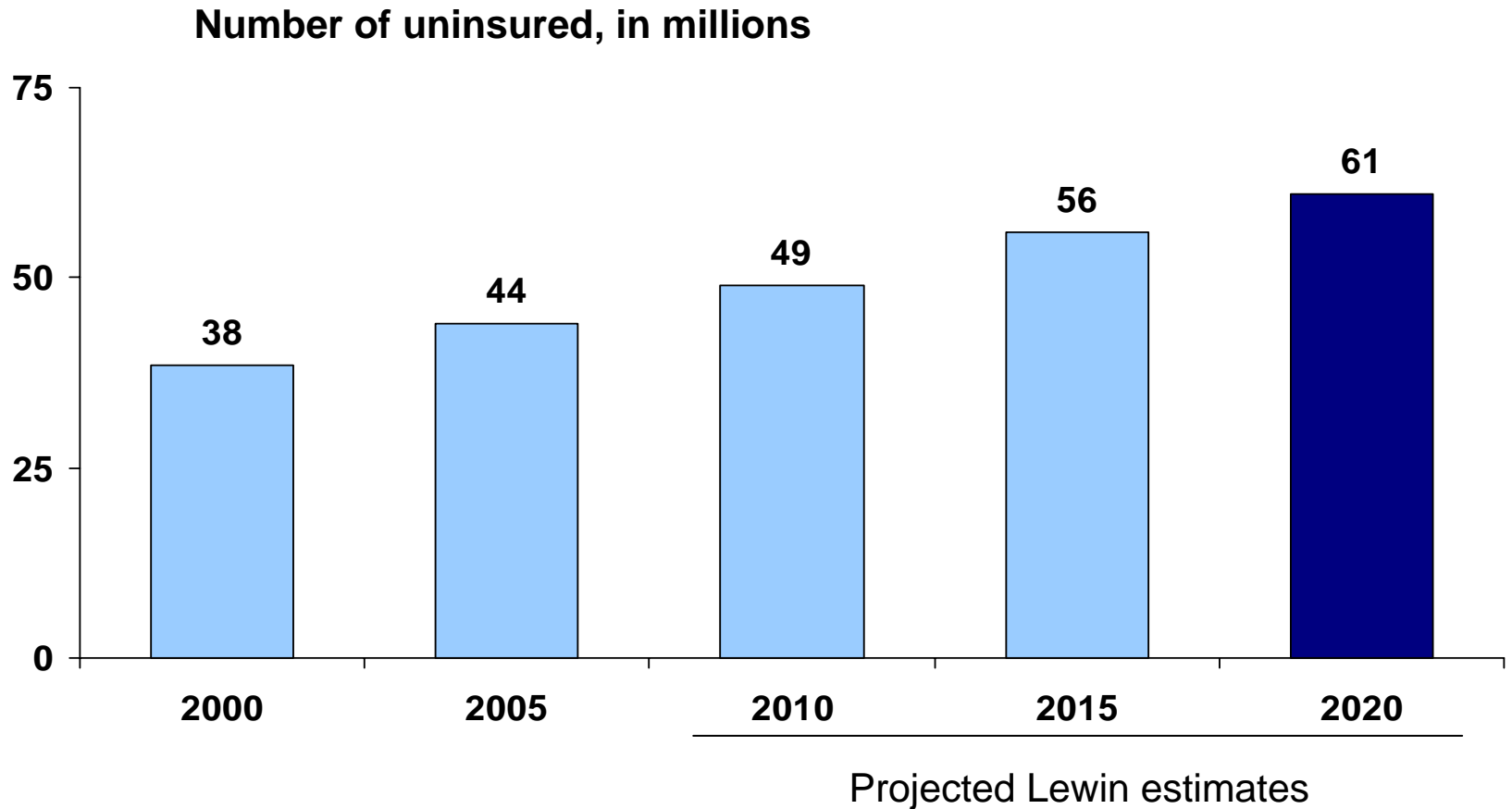
- **Access**
- **Cost**
- **Quality**

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# Uninsured Projected to Rise to 61 Million by 2020

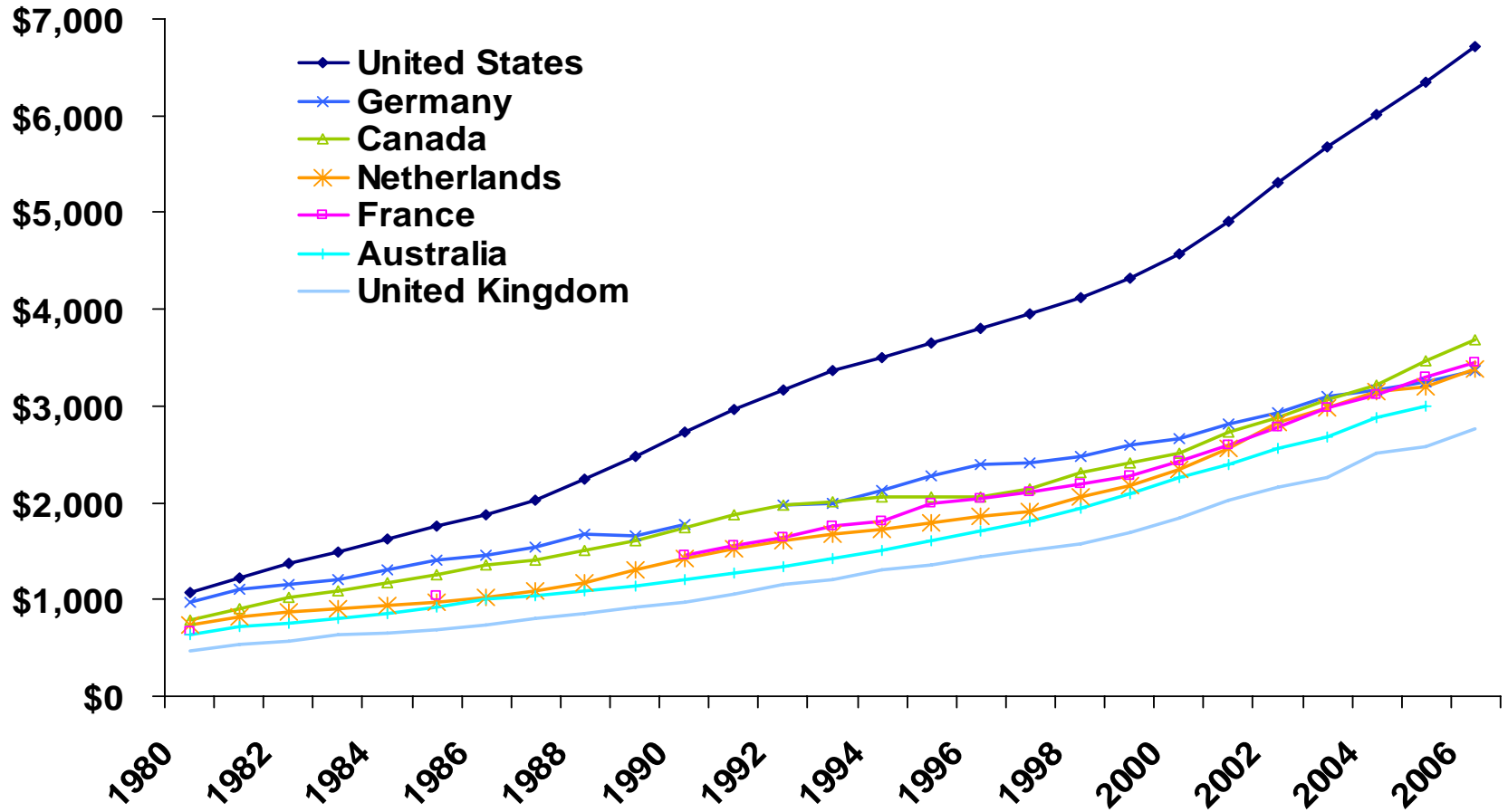
## Not Counting Underinsured or Part-Year Uninsured



Data: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2001 and 2006; Projections to 2020 based on estimates by The Lewin Group.

# International Comparison of Spending on Health, 1980–2006

Average spending on health per capita (\$US PPP\*)

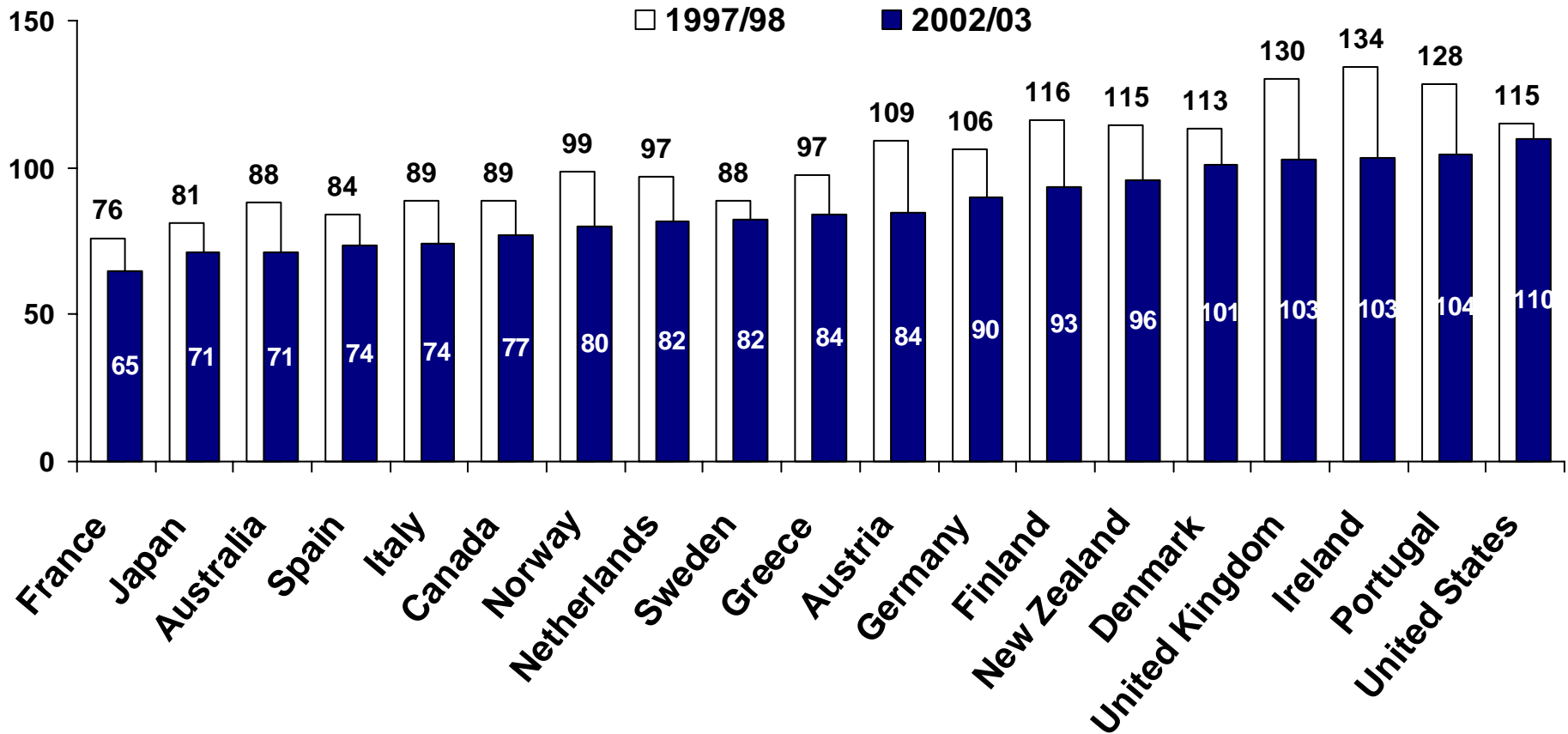


\* PPP = Purchasing Power Parity.

Data: OECD Health Data 2008, June 2008 version.

# Mortality Amenable to Health Care: U.S. Failing to Keep Pace with Other Countries

Deaths per 100,000 population\*



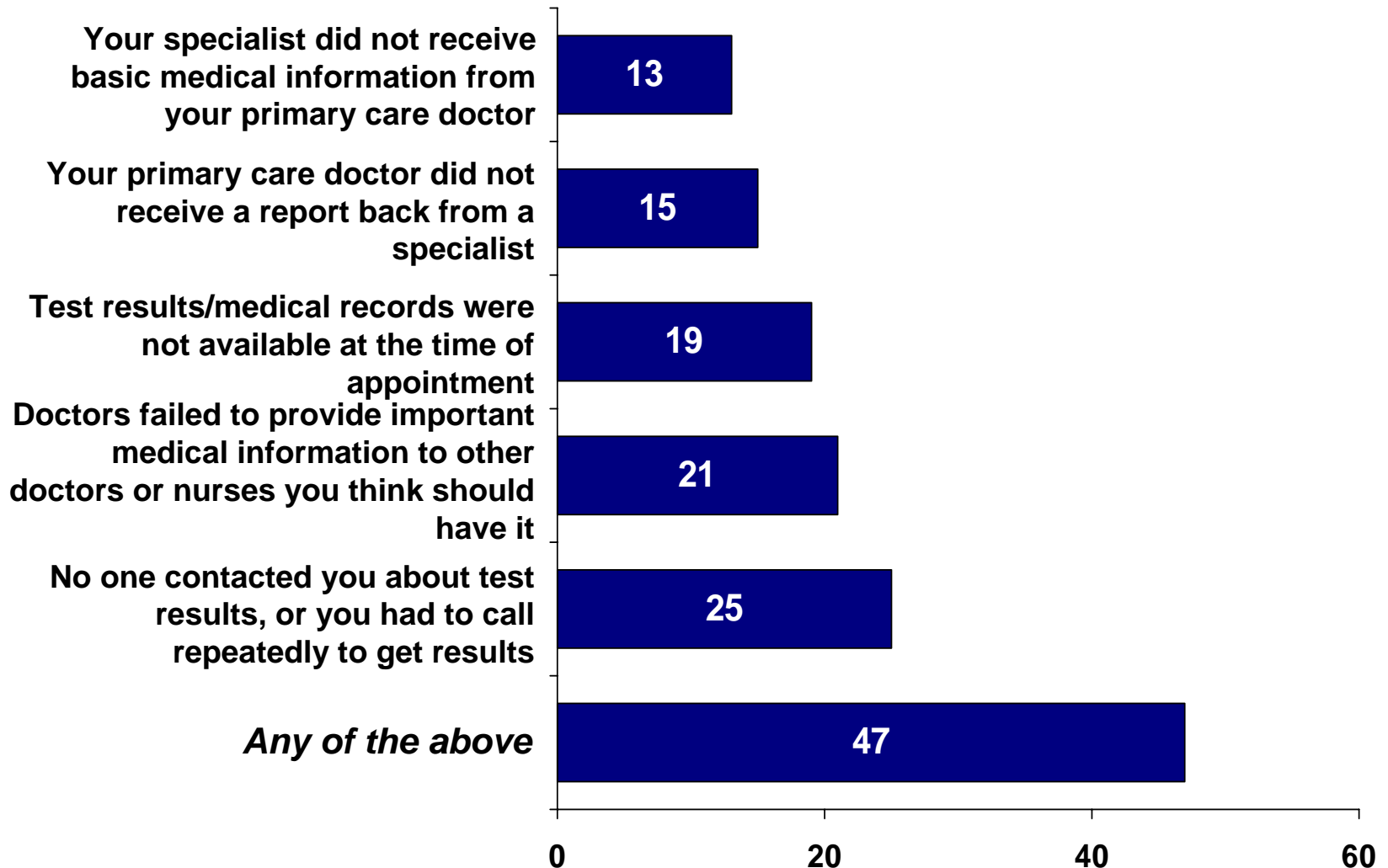
\* Countries' age-standardized death rates before age 75; including ischemic heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and bacterial infections.

Data: E. Nolte and C. M. McKee, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine analysis of World Health Organization mortality files (Nolte and McKee, *Health Affairs* 2008).

Source: Commonwealth Fund National Scorecard on U.S. Health System Performance, 2008.

# Poor Coordination: Nearly Half Report Failures to Coordinate Care

Percent U.S. adults reported in past two years:



Source: Commonwealth Fund Survey of Public Views of the U.S. Health Care System, 2008.

# The Public Is Concerned About the Problem

“An issue that has received attention in the news lately is the number of Americans who do not have health insurance. How serious do you think this problem is?”

- **74%** Very serious
- **19%** Somewhat serious
- **4%** Not too serious
- **2%** Not at all serious
- **1%** Don't know/refused

# Prospects for Reform

- **Obstacles that have not changed**
  - Size and diversity of the health care industry
  - Strong resistance to “income redistribution”
  - Extent of problems uneven among states
    - TX, 25% uninsured
    - MA, 3% uninsured
- **Consensus building**
  - **Senators Baucus and Grassley**
    - Members and staff of Congress
  - **Senator Kennedy**
    - Stakeholders, including insurance industry and pharmaceutical companies



# Prospects for Reform

- **“Economic stimulus” may ease the way**
  - **Health information technology**
    - Incentives to hospitals and physician offices
  - **Comparative effectiveness studies**
  - **Coverage expansion**
    - Medicaid eligibility
    - COBRA support



# Apparent Consensus about Key Steps

- Outline long-term plan but don't do everything at once
- The **BIG ISSUE** is cost, but don't start there; expand access first
- Hybrid approach—mix of public and private plans
- Incentives for more primary care, chronic care, preventive care, coordination of care (“medical home”)



# Obama vs. Clinton Approaches

- 500-member task force meeting in secret

*versus*

- Broad features of plan outlined by the President; details developed by Congress
- Health Reform Reserve Fund
  - \$634 billion over 10 years



# Implications for Pharmacists

- **Potential to enhance status as patient care providers**

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# Implications for Pharmacists

## *Fact*

ASHP and pharmacy coalition are at the table, but significant grassroots effort will be required by members at state and local level



# Implications for Pharmacists

- **Cost control and access to care are the drivers for reform, and prevention, wellness, chronic disease management, medical home, and value-based purchasing are viewed as solutions.**
- ***Speak the language in terms of what pharmacists can do to help***



# Implications for Pharmacists

- **Time is of the essence—the window of opportunity is closing—act now!**



# Pharmacy and ASHP Advocacy

- **White House Office of Health Care Reform**
- **Dept. of Health and Human Services**
- **Congress**

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# Economic Stimulus: Laying the Groundwork for Health Reform

- **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009**
- **\$150 billion in new funds to health care**
- **Health information technology, \$19.2 B**
  - \$17.2 B incentive for hospitals and physicians
  - Individual hospital grants up to \$11 M
- **Comparative effectiveness research, \$1.1 B**
- **Prevention and wellness, \$1 B**
- **Health workforce development, \$500 M**



# Advocacy

## White House Forum on Health Care Reform

### March 5, 2009



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# Pharmacy Health Reform Principles

<http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/News/PharmacyHealthCareReformPrinciples.pdf>

- I. Improve Quality and Safety of Medication Use**
- II. Assure Patient Access to Needed Medications and Pharmacy Services**
- III. Pharmacy and Health Information Technology Interoperability**

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# ASHP Principles for Health Reform

<http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/News/NewsCapsHealthCareReform.pdf>

## 1. Coverage of medications and pharmacist services

- Continuity of care (medication reconciliation)
- Primary care by pharmacists in the “medical home”

## 2. Sustainable financing

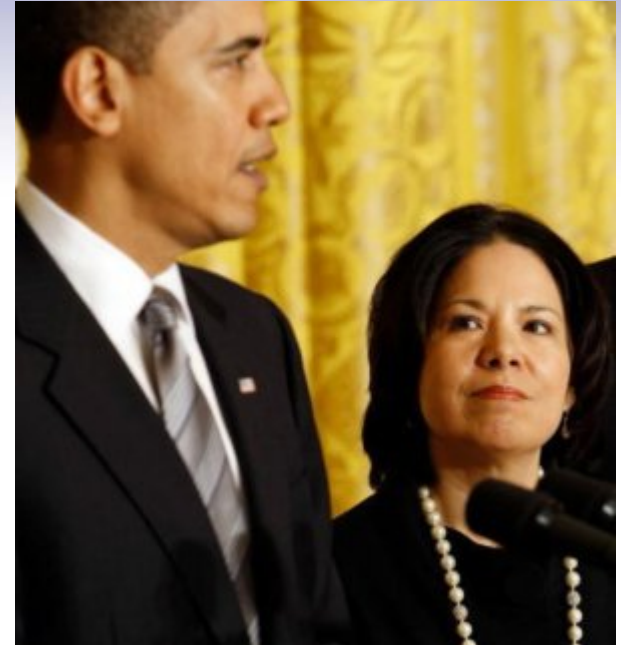
- Generics
- Follow-on biologics
- Postmarketing surveillance
- Coverage of pharmacists’ drug therapy management services

## 3. Align incentives for quality

- Support residency training for pharmacists
- Loan forgiveness for pharmacists
- Pharmacist participation in IT standards and systems

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Nancy-Ann DeParle, Director,  
White House Office of Health Reform

Pharmacy's message: "Pharmacists play a critical role in providing accessible, affordable and quality health care for patients."

March 25 letter to DeParle "We urge President Obama and his Administration to include pharmacists as active participants...and to include pharmacists as part of the solution."

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# Health Reform Forum, Burlington, VT, March 17, 2009

- Dearborn, MI
- Des Moines, IA
- Greensboro, NC
- Los Angeles, CA



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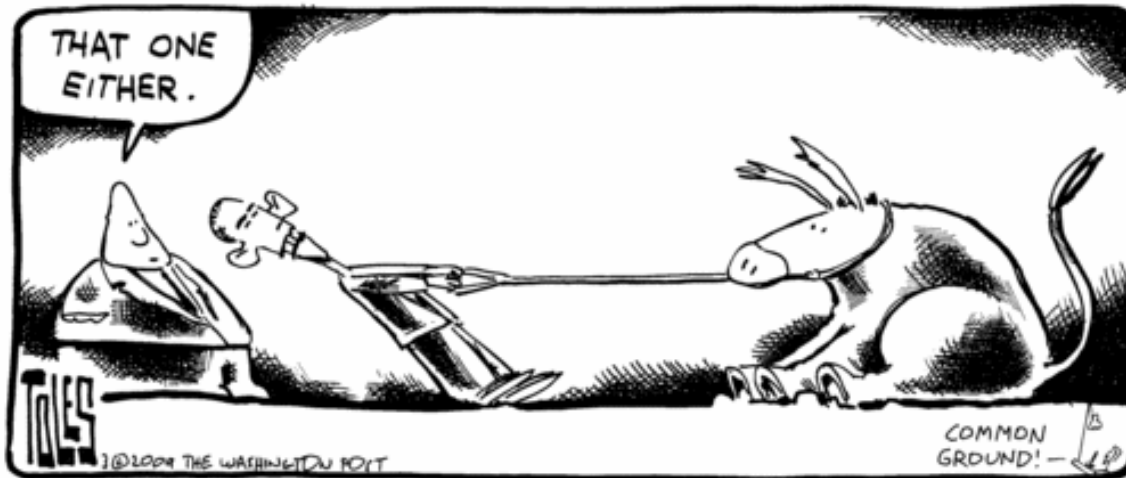


# HHS Secretary-Designate Sebelius



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# Policy Proposals

- **Obama Administration**
- **Sen. Baucus and Senate Finance**
- **Sen. Kennedy and Senate HELP**
- **Reps. Stark and Rangel-Ways & Means**
- **Reps. Pallone and Waxman-Energy & Commerce**
- **Stakeholders**
  - **Patients**
  - **Providers**
  - **Payers**



# Senate Finance Committee Leadership



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# Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee Leadership



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# Emerging Legislation

- **Delivery System Reform**
- **Coverage Expansion**
- **Financing-CBO scoring**
- **Public Plan**
- **Senate Committee Report by June, Floor action in July**



# State and Local Advocacy

- **State Affiliate Communication**
- **Grassroots Education and Motivation**
- **Political Action Committee**
- **Campaign Volunteer**

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# State and Local Advocacy

- **Recess/Work Periods**

- Spend Spring Break with Your Legislator

<http://www.ashp.org/import/news/NewsCapsules/article.aspx?id=272>

- Practice Site Visits and Tours
- Town Hall Sessions
- Serve as Health Advisor
- Volunteer in Campaign



# Specific “Ask”

- **Pharmacist Critical Role in Health Care Reform**
- **Recognition and Payment for Services**
- **Address Workforce Including Residency Funding**
- **Legislative Language Available**



# Next Steps

- **State Affiliate Communication**
- **Arrange Site Visit**
- **Attend Town Hall Sessions**
- **Volunteer and Contribute to Campaign**

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**Questions?**

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