



UNITED STATES SENATOR HARRY REID OF NEVADA

HEALTH REFORM FOR NEVADA'S HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Increases Primary Care Fees

- * Provides a 10 percent Medicare bonus payment for primary care services, and a 10 percent Medicare bonus payment for general surgery performed in health professional shortage areas, to decrease disparities in primary care income, which is approximately half that of specialist income. Also, ensures that Medicaid payments for primary care services are equal to Medicare payment rates for 2013 and 2014, and provides 100 percent federal funding for the additional cost to states of meeting this requirement.
- Approximately **40 percent** of Nevada physicians predominantly practice primary care. [Kaiser Family Foundation, accessed 6/15/10]

Reduces Uncompensated Care Debt

- * Reduces uncompensated care by covering the uninsured and limiting out-of-pocket expenses for those with coverage. Without reform, uncompensated care for all health care providers has been estimated to reach \$141 billion by 2019.

Tax Credits for Small Businesses

- * Provides sliding scale tax credits to small businesses, including health care providers who may operate their own small business, to help them offer health insurance coverage to their employees.
- Small businesses make up **69.7 percent** of all Nevada businesses, yet just **49.3 percent** of these small businesses are able to offer health insurance to their employees. Starting this year, more than **30,300** Nevada small businesses may be eligible for tax credits for a percentage of their contribution to their employees' health insurance. [AHRQ, accessed 3/20/10; Counter Per State Special Post Card Notice, IRS, accessed 06/14/10]

MAKES THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM WORK FOR PROVIDER AND THEIR PATIENTS

Cuts the Bureaucracy

- * Simplifies and standardizes paperwork to enable providers to focus on caring for their patients instead of dealing with bureaucracy. A national study found that a physician spends on average 142 hours and \$68,274 annually interacting with health plans.

Invests in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research

- * Invests in research to provide the evidence and tools providers need to enable more informed decision-making for themselves and their patients.

Innovates with Advanced Primary Care Models

- * Provides investments for medical homes and other advanced care coordination and disease management models to help providers ensure that their patients do not fall through the cracks and receive seamless, efficient care.

Promotes High Quality Care

- * Ensures that providers play a key role in establishing medically driven priorities and standards on quality, so that their patients receive the best care possible and providers who deliver high-quality care are justly rewarded.

INVESTS IN THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

Invests in the National Health Service Corps

- * Beginning October 1, 2010, the Act will provide funding for the National Health Service Corps (\$1.5 billion over five years) for scholarships and loan repayments for doctors, nurses and other health care providers who work in areas with a shortage of health professionals.
 - This will help the **13 percent** of Nevada's population who live in an underserved area. [The Affordable Care Act: Immediate Benefits for Nevada, White House, 05/28/10]

Increases Scholarships and Loan Repayment Programs

- * Invests in low interest loans, scholarships, and loan repayment programs to alleviate this financial burden and encourage students to enter health care fields. Provides incentives to encourage faculty to teach in medical, nursing, and dental schools. The high costs of education in health care fields often create large student loans, precluding some students from choosing a career in the health professions.
- * Excludes payments made under state loan repayment or loan forgiveness programs from taxable income for health care professionals serving in underserved or health professional shortage areas.

Strengthening Community Health Centers.

Beginning October 1, 2010, increased funding for Community Health Centers will help nearly double the number of patients seen by the centers over the next five years.

- * The funding could not only help the **33** Community Health Centers in Nevada but also support the construction of new centers.

Increases the Number of Primary Care Providers

- * To date, \$250 million of new funding has been provided by the Affordable Care Act to expand the primary care workforce. These new resources will be used to: create additional primary care residency slots, support physician assistant training in primary care, encourage students to pursue full-time nursing careers, establish new nurse practitioner-led clinics and encourage States to plan for and address health professional workforce needs.