



Health Reform Support Statement

The Washington Health Foundation (WHF) takes great pride in its longtime role as a champion of the need for comprehensive health reform. This commitment derives from our listening to the people of Washington regarding our health system, along with dialogues with leaders and health system stakeholders. It has been consistently clear that there is great support for major change to the health system across our state. Over the last five years, WHF has been actively seeking to create such changes through the public policy, organizational programs and individual actions of our innovative Healthiest State in the Nation Campaign.

The scope of this campaign's activities includes the call for major national health reform. The Healthiest State Campaign has adopted three core principles that must be successfully addressed for reform to be successful: Improving health through effective Prevention policies; achieving greater fairness to people through policies that create means of Universal Participation in the health system; and transforming the system through policies that will stimulate fundamental Health System Redesign and control costs.

We are actively engaged in the national debate, advocating with our Washington state congressional delegation, as well as other critical legislative and executive branch leaders. We have strongly encouraged inclusion of appropriate preventative measures and also consideration of our health system redesign recommendations.

We listened carefully to President Obama's speech to the Joint Session of Congress and support the very broad outlines for action that he announced. We note the President has previously emphasized the inclusion of preventive care and the greater effort to advance the cause of healthy living, consistent with our principles. The details are important to the achievement of the Healthiest State Campaign's health reform principles and we look forward to commenting further when more specifics are revealed.

More than anything, we wholeheartedly agree that inaction is unacceptable and that the time is now for major health reform. We stand by the President and all policy makers—Democrat, Republican or Independent—who seek to make 2009 the year that comprehensive health reform is finally enacted in the United States. As the President said, "now is the season for action... now is the time to deliver on health care."