



# H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act

## Statements of Support

AARP

Families USA

Consumers Union

AFL-CIO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 14, 2009

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**AARP on House TriComm Health Care Reform Bill:**

*“This bill would make great strides for all of our members and their families.”*

**WASHINGTON**—AARP CEO Barry Rand released the following statement following the introduction of health care reform legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives from Chairmen Charles Rangel, Henry Waxman and George Miller.

“We are pleased by the House TriCommittee’s health care reform bill, which makes important strides towards making sure that every American has access to affordable, quality health care choices.

“Those without access to employer sponsored plans face serious roadblocks that block affordable insurance choices based on their age and health status. Those of our members in Medicare pay close to 30% of their incomes on out-of-pocket expenses and they deserve relief, especially in the prescription drug doughnut hole, where they get no benefit while paying premiums.

“This bill would make great strides for all of our members and their families.

“It would help abolish those insurance market practices that keep people on the outside looking in based only on their age and health status. It recognizes that expanding coverage means little if a person can’t afford it, providing meaningful relief to those with modest incomes and capping out-of-pocket expenses for plans in the Exchange.

“The House TriCommittee bill would also close over time the Medicare prescription drug ‘doughnut hole’—a major concern for our members.

“We look forward to working with Chairmen Rangel, Waxman and Miller, as well as their colleagues in both parties and both chambers of Congress to build on current momentum and enact comprehensive health care reform in 2009.”

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**Tuesday, July 14, 2009**

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## **NEW HOUSE BILL WOULD SECURE HEALTH CARE AFFORDABILITY FOR AMERICA'S FAMILIES**

*Today, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Committee Chairmen Henry Waxman, Charlie Rangel, and George Miller introduced their unified health care reform bill. The following is the statement of Ron Pollack, Executive Director of Families USA, about this development:*

“The House health care reform bill provides the right prescription for America’s ailing health care system. It offers an effective set of remedies to ensure that virtually all Americans have access to high-quality, affordable health coverage and care.

“The bill effectively delivers the needed changes that families need:

- improved **affordability** so that no one is priced out of coverage and care;
- **choice** of health plans, including one’s current plan as well private plans and a robust public plan option;
- **stability** so that coverage can’t be lost or taken away; and
- **accountability** by insurance companies so that they don’t continue to deny or charge enormous premiums to people with pre-existing health conditions.

“This bill deserves to be enacted promptly, especially because more than 6,000 people are losing health coverage every single day.

“Families USA endorses the newly introduced House health care reform bill, and we will work tirelessly to see that it is enacted into law this year.”

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*Families USA is the national organization for health care consumers. It advocates for high-quality, affordable health coverage for everyone.*

**News Release**  
**Consumers Union – Publisher of Consumer Reports**  
**Tuesday, July 14, 2009**

**House Dems' Health Care Bill: Statement by Consumers Union**

DeAnn Friedholm, Consumers Union's campaign director for health care reform, today made the following statement about the House Democrats' health care bill introduced this afternoon:

“This bill is a major milestone on the road to health reform. The bill ensures that virtually every American will always have dependable, affordable, comprehensive health care. It sets in place measures to reduce health inflation and improve the quality of care. It goes a long way toward addressing consumers' fear of bankruptcy from high health care costs.

“We're especially pleased that the House added a requirement for the public reporting of healthcare acquired infections. An American dies about every 5 minutes—100,000 die every year—from largely preventable hospital acquired infections. At long last, this bill offers a national response to this deadly problem, by providing public information on what each local hospital is doing to stop these unnecessary deaths. The light of publicity will enable consumers -- and dedicated medical staffs -- to insist on major quality reforms.”

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Consumers Union, publisher of Consumer Reports, is an independent, nonprofit testing and information organization serving the consumer. We are a comprehensive source of unbiased advice about products and services, personal finance, health, nutrition, and other consumer concerns. Since 1936, our mission has been to test products, inform the public, and protect consumers.

For Immediate Release

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STATEMENT BY AFL-CIO PRESIDENT JOHN SWEENEY ON HOUSE  
HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL

July 14, 2009

Working Americans saw real and historic action today in the efforts to fix our broken health care system with the release of the House of Representatives bill, “America’s Affordable Health Choices Act.” We applaud the House Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Education and Labor Committees for their hard work and solid work product. We especially recognize the contributions of Chairmen Rangel, Waxman and Miller in coordinating Herculean efforts to produce a single bill for committee consideration so that reform efforts can move forward smoothly and expeditiously.

The House proposal meets President Obama’s goals by controlling runaway health care costs, offering the American people real choices and expanding access to quality health care. It has a high quality public health insurance plan that provides real choices and real competition for private insurance from day one. It calls on corporations to pay their fair share. Like the President’s proposal, it calls on those who can afford it to contribute to funding health coverage expansion – in the House bill through a modest tax surcharge. It does not ask the American people to pay more for what they already have. In fact, this legislation offers the real promise of improving quality, increasing access and reducing costs, all at the same time.

Voters want their elected representatives to guarantee quality affordable health care. They want a quality public plan that will provide a real alternative to confusing private plans that profit from denying care and shortchanging coverage. They want everyone to pay their fair share. We urge the Representatives to move forward with reform and vigorously resist any attempt to dilute this bill during the legislative process. We call on Congress to act swiftly on health care reform and deliver much needed relief to working families.

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