

HOT FACTS

AMERICA'S BROKEN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

★ Premium costs are rising three times faster than wages or inflation

- The average premium for family health insurance coverage today is more than \$12,000—and it's expected to double by 2016 unless we do something.

★ Exploding costs are hurting working families

- One in four families had a problem paying for medical care in the past year—and more than two-thirds of those with problems had insurance.
- Nearly 30 percent say someone in their family has delayed medical care in the past year.
- Every 30 seconds, someone files for "medical bankruptcy."

★ Rising costs are hurting our employers

- As health costs increase, employers that offer health coverage are finding it harder to compete—with companies in countries that have universal coverage and with nonunion employers here in America that don't offer benefits.

★ As costs rise, more people are uninsured

- Today, 47 million people in our country have no health coverage—including 8.7 million children—and these numbers are going up. In 2013, if we don't change things, 56 million of us will be uninsured.

★ Retirees especially are losing employer-sponsored health care

- Only half the employers who provided retiree health coverage in 2000 are still providing it today—a 50 percent drop in seven years.

★ Lack of insurance hurts all of us

- Premiums for employer-provided family health insurance coverage include about \$1,000 toward the cost of care for the uninsured.

★ Today's health care system is wasteful and inefficient

- Private insurance companies spend 15 percent of their money—our money—on administrative costs. Compare that to less than 3 percent for large public plans such as Medicare.

★ But insurance and drug companies are profiting

- Profits for drug makers are almost 20 percent, compared with 6.3 percent for all Fortune 500 companies. Health insurance company profits have increased 1,084 percent in five years.
- Pharmaceutical company CEOs average \$4.36 million a year in compensation. For health insurance companies, it's \$8.75 million a year. One insurance CEO alone, Aetna's Ronald Williams, brings in more than \$32 million a year.

★ The people want America's broken health care system fixed

- Ninety percent of Americans say the U.S. health care system needs to undergo fundamental change or be rebuilt completely. Among union members, 71 percent say it is "critical for elected officials to address health care."

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