



A Message from the Council for Healing Re: Health Care Reform in the United States

October 26, 2009

To our elected officials and government agencies:

We represent the Council for Healing (CfH), www.councilforhealing.org, an alliance of various national healing groups and practices, including the Association for Network Care, the American Organization for Bodywork Therapies of Asia, Education in Healing, Healing Touch International, Inc., Noetic Field Therapy, Prayer Healing, Therapeutic Touch International Association, Inc., and Wholistic Healing. The CfH represents approximately 12,000 healing arts practitioners, and promotes healing and access to healing. The Council has facilitated a Healer's Code of Ethics you may be interested in. Please see www.councilforhealing.org/Ethics.html.

On behalf of our members nationwide, we offer the following input regarding health care reform:

1. Today's medical systems must be transformed.

- The current health insurance/medical industry system is not promoting health and well being for the people of the United States.
- We ask you to be daring. Create new and exciting ways to truly further the health of this nation and all of her people. Such efforts will inevitably support economic development while fostering excellent care.
- We ask you to support and promote simple efficiency along with quality and affordable multi-level, multi-faceted *health care*.
- Prevention of catastrophic illness is more cost-effective than treatment. We ask you to support medical plans and a comprehensive system that utilizes all therapies holding efficacy, from least invasive to most invasive, and focus upon prevention and health maintenance. This includes health care education and tools for self care that support physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well being (including but not limited to: healthy nutrition, relaxation, self exam, fitness/exercise, stress management, prayer, meditation, social support, and promotion of environmental health and safety).

2. We ask you to integrate holistic and complementary practices in a new *health care* system.

- Americans pay billions of dollars out-of-pocket annually for integrative therapies. That money could be used to pay for insurance and pay the practitioners when such practices are included in one's health care package.
- Many holistic integrative methods have been shown to promote healing and recovery from illness and to enhance health and healthy behaviors at a very low cost. The financial savings if these approaches are covered will be tremendous.
- Integrative and complementary practices have been added to insurance plans in some states and are showing themselves to be cost-effective as well as beneficial to the patient. The "ABC" coding system has been developed and utilized for this purpose and further defines the use of validated integrative therapies for acute and chronic conditions as well as to maintain health.
- Research supports the efficacy and safety of these integrative-holistic and healing practices in health care. You can find extensive research information on the Council website, www.councilforhealing.org, its member websites, in addition to other sources such as the NIH National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

3. We ask you to regulate the health insurance, pharmaceutical, and medical equipment industries, not *health care*.

- Create or reform laws that will end, quickly and permanently, the extensive profit making from disease and disease maintenance.
- Support and protect comprehensive health care plans that include all aspects of health care, including preventive maintenance and care, dental, vision, complementary and integrative medicine, etc.
- Support and protect accountability and reasonable costs.
- Set reasonable limits on the percentage of income one must pay for health insurance, for those who are wealthy as well as those who are not.
- There must be a provision for insurance coverage for every person.
- Give 100% tax credit to the self-employed for paid insurance premiums, with generous similar benefits for small businesses.

4. Have the courage to stand up and create the best health care system on the planet.

- Move forward with a plan that is fair and workable, regardless of the influence of lobbyists and the current for-profit insurers.
- Support, educate, encourage, and reward those who truly want to help people grow in health and heal from illness.
- Support and promote consistent, positive messages about the value of, and means to, one's health.
- Support and promote sustainable, just, dignified living so more healing can occur naturally.

Thank you for making a positive difference,
The Council for Healing

Board of Directors

Daniel J. Benor, MD, ABIHM

Mary J. Frost, Co-coordinator, RN, MS, BHN-BC, CHTP/I

Rebecca Good, Co-coordinator, MA, RNC, ACRN, LPC, QTTT

Debra C. Howard, LMT, AOBTA®-CI, Dipl. ABT (NCCAOM)

Dan Lemberger, DC

Cay Randall-May, PhD

Scott Walker, MD

Bernard Williams, PhD

Rothlyn Zahourek, PhD, PMHCNS- BC, AHN-BC