Looking for details on the 2010 health care law?

Check out this summary of H.R. 3590 by Republicans on the House Ways & Means Committe

In the 111th Congress,Congressman Akin supported health care reform legislation that respects the decisions of patients and medical professionals and did not burden future taxpayers with new debt-financed entitlement programs. He *supported* Patient Centered Health Care Reforms and *opposed* H.R. 3590, the health care law supported by President Obama and House and Senate Democratic leadership.

Patient Centered Health Care Reform

- *Voluntary Purchasing Pools:* Give individuals and small businesses the opportunities that large businesses and the government have to seek lower insurance costs. Allow individuals to create group purchasing pools and negotiate more favorable rates - the way large businesses already do – benefits everyone. (H.R. 2607)
- *Improve Competition:* Allow individuals to purchase the insurance plan they want across state lines. This increases competition between insurance companies and improves rates and service for customers. (H.R. 3400)
- *Portability:* Allow consumers to “own” their insurance policies, even if they change jobs or move to a different state. This reduces the likelihood that an individual would become uninsurable. (H.R. 3400)
- *Meaningful Lawsuit Reform:* Cap non-economic damages and incentivize out of court settlements, in order to control one of the biggest cost drivers in the healthcare system and reduce wasteful, defensive medicine. (H.R. 1086, H.R. 3400)
- *Increasing Transparency:* Require that information on the quality and cost of care be easily available to consumers. This puts patients in charge of their healthcare decisions. (H.R. 3400)
- *Tax free health care:* The current U.S. tax code allows larger employers to pay for employee health insurance with pre-tax dollars but it does not allow the same benefit for small businesses and the self-employed. Tax policy must be equalized for all citizens.

- *Health savings accounts:* Expanding health savings accounts (HSAs) would reduce costs for employers and consumers. Allowing individuals to purchase insurance as well as pay for out-of-pocket expenses with pre-tax dollars encourages people to plan for future health expenses. (H.R. 3400, H.R. 1470, H.R. 3508, H.R. 3610)
- *Reward healthy choices:* Unhealthy lifestyles remain a significant cost driver in American medicine. Individuals who participate in managing their chronic disease or who exercise and

avoid high risk behaviors should be eligible for insurance premium rebates and other incentives. (H.R. 3400)

- *Cover pre-existing conditions:* Patients should have access to insurance coverage when they need it most. Insurance companies and state plans could be given incentives to insure individuals with pre-existing conditions while allowing for flexible, risk-based premiums. (H.R. 3400)
- *Encourage charitable care:* community health centers and non-emergency clinics provide valuable services to individuals who pay out-of-pocket for health care and those who cannot afford full coverage. Providing a tax deduction for volunteer services provided by medical professionals would increase availability of charitable care. Retired medical professionals are often unable to maintain their licenses and volunteer their skills due to the high risk of lawsuits. Volunteering professionals should be exempt from most types of lawsuits. (H.R. 3400)

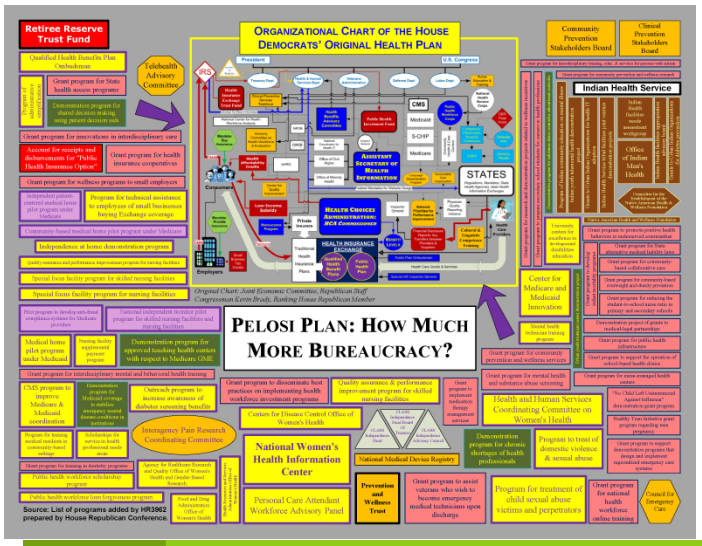
Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

See H.R. 3590 Summary

See H.R. 3590, signed into law.

See the House Conservative Healthcare Plan

H.R. 3400 Summary



Americans Agree

Fixing healthcare means:

- Covering Pre-existing conditions
- Stopping cost-shifting / reforming medical liability law
- Making sure people can keep insurance coverage they like
- Preserving the doctor / patient relationship

GOP.gov/solutions/healthcare