



LET'S GET *Reformed!*

Healthcare Repair:
A B'nai B'rith
Agenda for Reform

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**B'NAI B'RITH
INTERNATIONAL**

Center for Senior Services

2020 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006

www.bnaibrith.org



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Healthcare Repair: A B'nai B'rith Agenda for Reform

The lack of affordable and available healthcare plans has become a serious issue. We are committed to making a difference!

- More than 47 million Americans are uninsured. They are older adults, children, families – eight in ten come from working families.
- In addition to America's uninsured, roughly 50 million more people are under-insured and many must sacrifice other household necessities in order to obtain access to medical treatment.

B'nai B'rith has developed and adopted principles to provide an evaluation system for healthcare-related proposals expected to make their way through Congress in the next few years. We hope that this document will help guide the process of healthcare reform as we consult with Congress and the White House on this vital issue.



Principles for Healthcare Reform

The nation's healthcare system must adapt in ways that lead not only to broader coverage, but also to routine and lifelong care. This is the only way to ensure healthy lives and healthy aging.

1 Everyone needs real insurance

Millions of Americans have no insurance or insufficient coverage. We need to expand quality coverage to the uninsured and to the underinsured. We cannot solve this problem by giving bad coverage to more people.

2 Coverage and care have to be affordable

Too many Americans are priced out of the healthcare market because they are too old, too sick, or too poor. All Americans need access to healthcare they can afford. That means that premiums have to be affordable, but so does care. Reform plans must address cost-sharing like copayments and deductibles.

3 People need to be able to get coverage and keep it

People who have coverage shouldn't end up worse off after reform. We may need to keep the employer based system, or we may not. But either way, the millions of Americans who get benefits that way should not lose out.

A plan must not neglect those who are sick, older, or have chronic conditions. We have to pool people together so that everyone can afford to get insurance.

4 We need action for longterm services and supports

One of the fastest growing "healthcare" costs is longterm services and supports (like a nursing home), much of which is currently not covered by Medicare or private insurance. We must integrate healthcare and longterm care before we can consider healthcare reform a success.

5 Reform has to be fiscally and politically doable

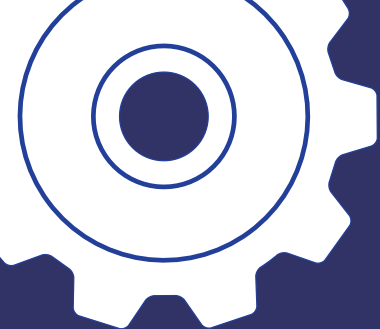
We might be able to design the ideal system, but if we can't pay for it, it won't work. If it is too dramatic, too partisan, too extreme, or just too scary, it won't get done. We can't let the perfect be the enemy of the possible.

6 Funding has to be fair

That means coming to a consensus about what "fair" means. Who should pay what? Should I pay for you? Should you pay for me? Is single payer more "fair" or should we stay with the private system? Should I be forced to get coverage to help pool risk?

We believe that reform must recognize healthcare as a right, but also expect personal responsibility.





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How You Can Get Involved!

- Contact us about hosting a forum on access to affordable care for everyone in your community.
- Tell our government what we think about healthcare. Contact B'nai B'rith and we'll show you how.
- Sign up for our *CSS Update* online newsletter at <http://ga1.org/bnaibrith/join.html>.

Talk to Us!

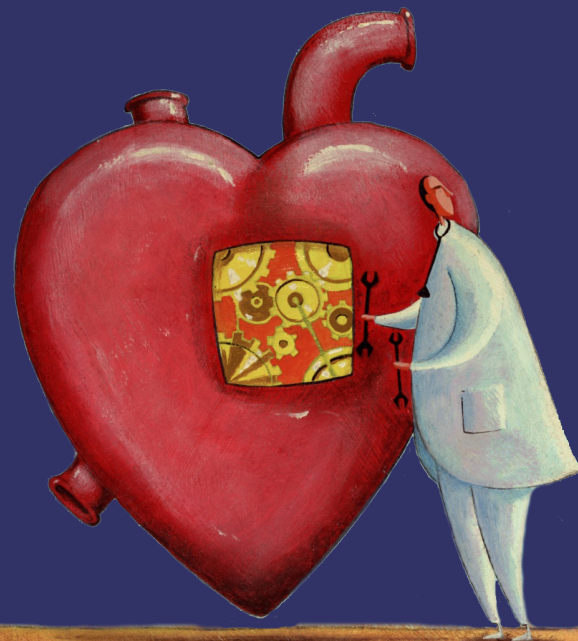
You can help us push this issue to the forefront of all political and policy discussions taking place by contacting us in one of the following ways:

By phone: 866-999-6596

By email: senioradvocacy@bnaibrith.org

Want to Bring a Health-care Panel to Your Area?

Contact us at healthcare@bnaibrith.org





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The B'nai B'rith International Center for Senior Services

evolved from our experience with senior housing. We saw the needs of our residents and began bringing programs to our buildings. From there, our initiatives on behalf of older Americans and their families grew to include information, advocacy, and programming in areas including:

- Housing and aging in place
- Stem cell research
- Medicare
- Community programs on topics such as nutrition, healthcare for all, and identity theft

For more information, please contact us at 1-866-999-6596 or email: senioradvocacy@bnaibrith.org.



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