



# FOCUS *on Health Reform*

## HEALTH CARE REFORM PROPOSALS

Achieving comprehensive health reform has emerged as a leading priority of the President and Congress. This summary of the Senate Finance Committee America’s Healthy Future Act of 2009, the Senate HELP Committee Affordable Health Choices Act and the House Tri-Committee America’s Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 (H.R. 3200) describes the key components of these leading health reform proposals. The House Tri-Committee summary incorporates the major amendments to the legislation adopted by the three committees of jurisdiction during their mark-ups of the bill. These amendments are identified using an abbreviation for the House panel that approved it — “E&C” for the Committee on Energy and Commerce; “E&L” for the Committee on Education and Labor; and “W&M” for the Committee on Ways and Means.

	Senate Finance Committee America’s Healthy Future Act of 2009	Senate HELP Committee Affordable Health Choices Act	House Tri-Committee America’s Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 (H.R. 3200)
<b>Date plan announced</b>	September 16, 2009	June 9, 2009	June 19, 2009
<b>Overall approach to expanding access to coverage</b>	Require most U.S. citizens and legal residents to have health insurance. Create state-based health insurance exchanges through which individuals can purchase coverage, with premium and cost-sharing credits available to individuals/families with income between 100-400% of the federal poverty level (the poverty level is \$22,050 for a family of four in 2009) and create separate exchanges through which small businesses can purchase coverage. Assess a fee on certain employers that do not offer coverage for each employee who receives a tax credit for health insurance through an exchange, with exceptions for small employers. Impose new regulations on health plans in the exchange and in the individual and small group markets. Expand Medicaid to all individuals with incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level and expand CHIP eligibility to all children up to 250% of the federal poverty level.	Require individuals to have health insurance. Create state-based American Health Benefit Gateways through which individuals and small businesses can purchase health coverage, with subsidies available to individuals/families with incomes up to 400% of the federal poverty level (or \$73,240 for a family of three in 2009). Require employers to provide coverage to their employees or pay an annual fee, with exceptions for small employers, and provide certain small employers a credit to offset the costs of providing coverage. Impose new regulations on the individual and small group insurance markets. Expand Medicaid to all individuals with incomes up to 150% of the federal poverty level.	Require all individuals to have health insurance. Create a Health Insurance Exchange through which individuals and smaller employers can purchase health coverage, with premium and cost-sharing credits available to individuals/families with incomes up to 400% of the federal poverty level (or \$73,240 for a family of three in 2009). Require employers to provide coverage to employees or pay into a Health Insurance Exchange Trust Fund, with exceptions for certain small employers, and provide certain small employers a credit to offset the costs of providing coverage. Impose new regulations on plans participating in the Exchange and in the small group insurance market. Expand Medicaid to 133% of the poverty level.

	Senate Finance Committee America's Healthy Future Act of 2009	Senate HELP Committee Affordable Health Choices Act	House Tri-Committee America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 (H.R. 3200)
Individual mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require U.S. citizens and legal residents to have qualifying health coverage. Enforced through a tax penalty of \$750 per year for taxpayers with incomes between 100-300% FPL (maximum penalty per family of \$1,500) and \$950 per year for taxpayers with incomes above 300% FPL (maximum penalty per family of \$3,800). Exemptions will be granted for financial hardship, religious objections, American Indians, and if the lowest cost plan option exceeds 10% of an individual's income or if the individual has income below 133% of the poverty level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require individuals to have qualifying health coverage. Enforced through a minimum tax penalty of no more than \$750 per year. Exemptions to the individual mandate will be granted to residents of states that do not establish an American Health Benefit Gateway, members of Indian tribes, those for whom affordable coverage is not available, and those without coverage for fewer than 90 days.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require all individuals to have "acceptable health coverage". Those without coverage pay a penalty of 2.5% of modified adjusted gross income up to the cost of the average national premium for self-only or family coverage under a basic plan in the Health Insurance Exchange. Exceptions granted for dependents, religious objections, and financial hardship.</li> </ul>
Employer requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess a fee on employers with more than 50 employees that do not offer coverage for each employee who receives a health insurance tax credit through an exchange. The penalty is the lesser of a flat dollar amount equal to the average tax credit for each full-time employee receiving a tax credit or \$400 times the total number of employees in the firm.</li> <li>Exempt employers with 50 or fewer employees from the penalty.</li> <li>Require employers with 200 or more employees to automatically enroll employees into health insurance plans offered by the employer. Employees may opt out of coverage if they have coverage from another source.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require employers to offer health coverage to their employees and contribute at least 60% of the premium cost or pay \$750 for each uninsured full-time employee and \$375 for each uninsured part-time employee who is not offered coverage. For employers subject to the assessment, the first 25 workers are exempted.</li> <li>Exempt employers with 25 or fewer employees from the requirement to provide coverage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require employers to offer coverage to their employees and contribute at least 72.5% of the premium cost for single coverage and 65% of the premium cost for family coverage of the lowest cost plan that meets the essential benefits package requirements or pay 8% of payroll into the Health Insurance Exchange Trust Fund. <i>[E&amp;L Committee amendment: Provide hardship exemptions for employers that would be negatively affected by job losses as a result of requirement.]</i></li> <li>Eliminate or reduce the pay or play assessment for small employers with annual payroll of less than \$400,000: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual payroll less than \$250,000: exempt</li> <li>Annual payroll between \$250,000 and \$300,000: 2% of payroll;</li> <li>Annual payroll between \$300,000 and \$350,000: 4% of payroll;</li> <li>Annual payroll between \$350,000 and \$400,000: 6% of payroll.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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Employer requirements (continued)			<p><i>[E&amp;C Committee amendment: Extend the reduction in the pay or play assessment for small employers with annual payroll of less than \$750,000 and replace the above schedule with the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>- Annual payroll less than \$500,000: exempt</i></li> <li><i>- Annual payroll between \$500,000 and \$585,000: 2% of payroll;</i></li> <li><i>- Annual payroll between \$585,000 and \$670,000: 4% of payroll;</i></li> <li><i>- Annual payroll between \$670,000 and \$750,000: 6% of payroll.]</i></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require employers that offer coverage to automatically enroll into the employer's lowest cost premium plan any individual who does not elect coverage under the employer plan or does not opt out of such coverage.</li> </ul>

	Senate Finance Committee America's Healthy Future Act of 2009	Senate HELP Committee Affordable Health Choices Act	House Tri-Committee America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 (H.R. 3200)
Expansion of public programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand Medicaid to all individuals (children, pregnant women, parents, and adults without dependent children) with incomes up to 133% FPL (to be implemented in 2014). Adults with incomes between 100-133% FPL will have the option of obtaining coverage through Medicaid or with federal subsidies through the exchange. All newly eligible adults will be guaranteed a benchmark benefit package that at least meets the minimum creditable coverage standards. Require states to provide premium assistance to any Medicaid beneficiary with access to employer-sponsored insurance if it is cost-effective for the state. To finance the coverage for the newly eligible (those who were not previously eligible for a full benchmark benefit package or who were eligible for a capped program but were not enrolled), states will receive an increase in the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP). Initially, the percentage point increase in the FMAP will be 27.3 for states that already cover adults with incomes above 100% FPL and 37.3 for other states. These percentage point increases will be adjusted over time so that by 2019, all states will receive an FMAP increase of 32.3 percentage points for the newly eligible.</li> <li>Beginning in 2013, expand eligibility for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to 250% FPL and enroll CHIP beneficiaries in exchange plans. Require states to provide services not covered by plans in the exchange, including Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) services, as wrap-around benefits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand Medicaid to all individuals (children, pregnant women, parents, and adults without dependent children) with incomes up to 150% FPL. Individuals eligible for Medicaid will be covered through state Medicaid programs and will not be eligible for credits to purchase coverage through American Health Benefit Gateways.</li> <li>Grant individuals eligible for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) the option of enrolling in CHIP or enrolling in a qualified health plan through a Gateway.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand Medicaid to all individuals (children, pregnant women, parents, and adults without dependent children) with incomes up to 133% FPL. Newly eligible, non-traditional (childless adults) Medicaid beneficiaries may enroll in coverage through the Exchange if they were enrolled in qualified health coverage during the six months before becoming Medicaid eligible. Provide Medicaid coverage for all newborns who lack acceptable coverage and provide optional Medicaid coverage to low-income HIV-infected individuals and for family planning services to certain low-income women. In addition, increase Medicaid payment rates for primary care providers to 100% of Medicare rates. <i>[E&amp;C Committee amendment: Require states to submit a state plan amendment specifying the payment rates to be paid under the state's Medicaid program.]</i> The coverage expansions (except the optional expansions) and the enhanced provider payments will be fully financed with federal funds. <i>[E&amp;C Committee amendment: Replace full federal financing for Medicaid coverage expansions with 100% federal financing through 2014 and 90% federal financing beginning in year 2015.]</i></li> </ul>

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Expansion of public programs (continued)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrollees to obtain coverage through the Health Insurance Exchange (in the first year the Exchange is available) provided the Health Choices Commissioner determines that the Exchange has the capacity to cover these children and that procedures are in place to ensure the timely transition of CHIP enrollees into the Exchange without an interruption of coverage. <i>[E&amp;C Committee amendment: Require that CHIP enrollees not be enrolled in an Exchange plan until the Secretary certifies that coverage is at least comparable to coverage under an average CHIP plan in effect in 2011. The Secretary must also determine that there are procedures to transfer CHIP enrollees into the exchange without interrupting coverage or with a written plan of treatment.]</i></li> </ul>

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<p>Premium subsidies to individuals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide refundable and advanceable premium credits to individuals and families with incomes between 133-400% FPL in 2013, and including individuals and families with incomes between 100-133% FPL in 2014, to purchase insurance through the health insurance exchanges. The premium credits will be tied to the second lowest-cost silver plan in the area and will be provided on a sliding scale basis from 3% of income for those at 100% FPL to 13% of income for those between 300-400% FPL.</li> <li>• Exclude individuals with incomes below 100% FPL from eligibility for the premium credits. These individuals will be eligible for coverage through the Medicaid program.</li> <li>• Provide cost-sharing subsidies to eligible individuals and families with incomes between 100-200% FPL. For those with incomes between 100-150% FPL, the cost-sharing subsidies will result in coverage for 90% of the benefit costs of the plan. For those with incomes between 150-200%, the cost-sharing subsidies will result in coverage for 80% of the benefit costs of the plan.</li> <li>• Limit availability of premium credits and cost-sharing subsidies through the exchanges to U.S. citizens and legal immigrants who meet income limits. Employees who are offered coverage by an employer are not eligible for premium credits unless the employer plan does not have an actuarial value of at least 65% or if the employee share of the premium exceeds 13% of income.</li> <li>• Require verification of both income and citizenship status in determining eligibility for the federal premium credits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide premium credits on a sliding scale basis to individuals and families with incomes up to 400% FPL to purchase coverage through the Gateway. The premium credits will be based on the average cost of the three lowest cost qualified health plans in the area, but will be such that individuals with incomes less than 400% FPL pay no more than 12.5% of income and individuals with incomes less than 150% FPL pay 1% of income, with additional limits on cost-sharing.</li> <li>• Limit availability of premium credits through the Gateway to individuals who are not eligible for employer-based coverage that meets minimum qualifying criteria and affordability standards, Medicare, Medicaid, TRICARE, or the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program. Individuals with access to employer-based coverage are eligible for the premium credits if the cost of the employee premium exceeds 12.5% of the individuals' income.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide affordability premium credits to eligible individuals and families with incomes up to 400% FPL to purchase insurance through the Health Insurance Exchange. The premium credits will be based on the average cost of the three lowest cost basic health plans in the area and will be set on a sliding scale such that the premium contributions are limited to the following percentages of income for specified income tiers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>133-150% FPL: 1.5 - 3% of income</li> <li>150-200% FPL: 3 - 5% of income</li> <li>200-250% FPL: 5 - 7% of income</li> <li>250-300% FPL: 7 - 9% of income</li> <li>300-350% FPL: 9 - 10% of income</li> <li>350-400% FPL: 10 - 11% of income</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>[E&amp;C Committee amendment: Replaces the above subsidy schedule with the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>133-150% FPL: 1.5 - 3% of income</li> <li>150-200% FPL: 3 - 5.5% of income</li> <li>200-250% FPL: 5.5 - 8% of income</li> <li>250-300% FPL: 8 - 10% of income</li> <li>300-350% FPL: 10 - 11% of income</li> <li>350-400% FPL: 11 - 12% of income]</li> </ul>

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Premium subsidies to individuals (continued)			<p><i>[E&amp;C Committee amendment: Increase the affordability credits annually by the estimated savings achieved through adopting a formulary in the public health insurance option, pharmacy benefit manager transparency requirements, developing accountable care organization pilot programs in Medicaid, and administrative simplification.] [E&amp;C Committee amendment: Increase the affordability credits annually by the estimated savings achieved through limiting increases in premiums for plans in the Exchange to no more than 150% of the annual increase in medical inflation and by requiring the Secretary to negotiate directly with prescription drug manufacturers to lower the prices for Medicare Part D plans.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide affordability cost-sharing credits to eligible individuals and families with incomes up to 400% FPL. The cost-sharing credits reduce the cost-sharing amounts and annual cost-sharing limits and have the effect of increasing the actuarial value of the basic benefit plan to the following percentages of the full value of the plan for the specified income tier: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>133-150% FPL: 97%</li> <li>150-200% FPL: 93%</li> <li>200-250% FPL: 85%</li> <li>250-300% FPL: 78%</li> <li>300-350% FPL: 72%</li> <li>350-400% FPL: 70%</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	Senate Finance Committee America's Healthy Future Act of 2009	Senate HELP Committee Affordable Health Choices Act	House Tri-Committee America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 (H.R. 3200)
Premium subsidies to individuals (continued)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit availability of premium and cost-sharing credits to US citizens and lawfully residing immigrants who meet the income limits and are not enrolled in qualified or grandfathered employer or individual coverage, Medicare, Medicaid (except those eligible to enroll in the Exchange), TRICARE, or VA coverage (with some exceptions). Individuals with access to employer-based coverage are eligible for the premium and cost-sharing credits if the cost of the employee premium exceeds 11% of the individuals' income [<i>E&amp;C Committee amendment: To be eligible for the premium and cost-sharing credits, the cost of the employee premium must exceed 12% of individuals' income.</i>].</li> </ul>
Premium subsidies to employers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide small employers with fewer than 25 employees and average annual wages of less than \$40,000 that purchase health insurance for employees with a tax credit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Phase I:</i> For tax years 2011 and 2012, provide a tax credit of up to 35% of the employer's contribution toward the employee's health insurance premium if the employer contributes at least 50% of the total premium cost or 50% of a benchmark premium. The full credit will be available to employers with 10 or fewer employees and average annual wages of less than \$20,000.</li> <li><i>Phase II:</i> For tax years 2013 and later, for eligible small businesses that purchase coverage through the state exchange, provide a tax credit of up to 50% of the employer's contribution toward the employee's health insurance premium if the employer contributes at least 50% of the total premium cost or 50% of a benchmark premium. The credit will be available for two years. The full credit will be available to employers with 10 or fewer employees and average annual wages of less than \$20,000.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide qualifying small employers with a health options program credit. To qualify for the credit, employers must have fewer than 50 full-time employees, pay an average wage of less than \$50,000, and must pay at least 60% of employee health expenses. The credit is equal to \$1,000 for each employee with single coverage and \$2,000 for each employee with family coverage, adjusted for firm size (phasing out as firm size increases) and number of months of coverage provided. Bonus payments are given for each additional 10% of employee health expenses above 60% paid by the employer. Employers may not receive the credit for more than three consecutive years. Self-employed individuals who do not receive premium credits for purchasing coverage through the Gateway are eligible for the credit.</li> <li>Create a temporary reinsurance program for employers providing health insurance coverage to retirees ages 55 to 64. Program will reimburse employers for 80% of retiree claims between \$15,000 and \$90,000. Program will end when the state Gateway is established. Payments from the reinsurance program will be used to lower the costs for enrollees in the employer plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide small employers with fewer than 25 employees and average wages of less than \$40,000 with a health coverage tax credit. The full credit of 50% of premium costs paid by employers is available to employers with 10 or fewer employees and average annual wages of \$20,000 or less. The credit phases-out as firm size and average wage increases and is not permitted for employees earning more than \$80,000 per year.</li> <li>Create a temporary reinsurance program for employers providing health insurance coverage to retirees ages 55 to 64. Program will reimburse employers for 80% of retiree claims between \$15,000 and \$90,000. Payments from the reinsurance program will be used to lower the costs for enrollees in the employer plan. Appropriate \$10 billion over ten years for the reinsurance program.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Tax changes related to health insurance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impose a tax on individuals without qualifying coverage of \$750 for those with incomes between 133-300% FPL and \$950 for those with incomes greater than 300% FPL.</li> <li>• Impose an excise tax in 2013 on insurers for employer-sponsored health plans with aggregate values that exceed \$8,000 for individual coverage and \$21,000 for family coverage (these threshold values will be indexed to the consumer price index for urban consumers (CPI-U)). The tax is equal to 35% of the value of the plan that exceeds the threshold amounts and is imposed on the issuer of the health insurance policy, which in the case of a self-insured plan is the plan administrator or, in some cases, the employer. The aggregate value of the health insurance plan includes reimbursements under a flexible spending account for medical expenses (health FSA) or health reimbursement arrangement (HRA), employer contributions to a health savings account (HSA), and coverage for dental, vision, and other supplementary health insurance coverage.</li> <li>• Conform the definition of medical expenses for purposes of employer provided health coverage (including HRAs and health FSAs), HSAs, and Archer medical savings accounts to the definition for purposes of the itemized deduction for medical expenses. This change will exclude the costs for over-the-counter drugs not prescribed by a doctor from being reimbursed through an HRA or health FSA and from being reimbursed on a tax-free basis through an HSA or Archer MSA.</li> <li>• Increase the tax on distributions from a health savings account that are not used for qualified medical expenses to 20% (from 10%) of the disbursed amount.</li> <li>• Limit the amount of contributions to a flexible spending account for medical expenses to \$2,000 per year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impose a minimum tax on individuals without qualifying health care coverage of no more than \$750 per year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impose a tax on individuals without acceptable health care coverage of 2.5% of modified adjusted gross income.</li> </ul>

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Tax changes related to health insurance (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impose new fees on segments of the health care sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$2.3 billion annual fee on the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector;</li> <li>– \$4 billion annual fee on the medical device manufacturing sector;</li> <li>– \$6 billion annual fee on the health insurance sector; and</li> <li>– \$750 million annual fee on the clinical laboratories sector.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
Creation of insurance pooling mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide immediate assistance until the new insurance market rules go into effect for those with pre-existing conditions by creating a temporary high-risk pool. Individuals who have been denied health coverage due to a pre-existing medical condition and who have been uninsured for at least six months will be eligible to enroll in the high-risk pool and receive subsidized premiums. The high-risk pool will exist until 2013.</li> <li>• Create state-based exchanges for the individual market and small business health options program (SHOP) exchanges for the small group market.</li> <li>• Restrict access to coverage through the exchanges to U.S. citizens and legal immigrants.</li> <li>• Create the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP) program to foster the creation of non-profit, member-run health insurance companies in all 50 states and District of Columbia. To be eligible to receive funds, organizations must not be an existing organization, substantially all of its activities must consist of the issuance of qualified health benefit plans in each state in which it is licensed, governance of the organization must be subject to a majority vote of its members, must operate with a strong consumer focus, and any profits must be used to lower premiums, improve benefits, or improve the quality of health care delivered to its members.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create state-based American Health Benefit Gateways, administered by a governmental agency or non-profit organization, through which individuals and small employers can purchase qualified coverage. States may form regional Gateways or allow more than one Gateway to operate in a state as long as each Gateway serves a distinct geographic area.</li> <li>• Restrict access to coverage through the Gateways to individuals who are not incarcerated and who are not eligible for employer-sponsored coverage that meets minimum qualifying criteria and affordability standards, Medicare, Medicaid, TRICARE, or the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program</li> <li>• Create a community health insurance option to be offered through state Gateways that complies with the requirements of being a qualified health plan. Require that the costs of the community health insurance plan be financed through revenues from premiums, require the plan to negotiate payment rates with providers, and contract with qualified nonprofit entities to administer the plan. Permit the plan to develop innovative payment policies to promote quality, efficiency, and savings to consumers. Require each State to establish a State Advisory Council to provide recommendations on policies and procedures for the community health insurance option.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a National Health Insurance Exchange, through which individuals and employers (phasing-in eligibility for employers starting with smallest employers) can purchase qualified insurance, including from private health plans and the public health insurance option.</li> <li>• Restrict access to coverage through the Exchange to individuals who are not enrolled in qualified or grandfathered employer or individual coverage, Medicare, Medicaid (with some exceptions), TRICARE, or VA coverage (with some exceptions). [<i>E&amp;C Committee amendment: Permit members of the armed forces and those with coverage through TRICARE or the VA to enroll in a health benefits plan offered through the Exchange.</i>]</li> </ul>

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<p>Creation of insurance pooling mechanisms (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require all state-licensed insurers in the individual and small group markets to participate in the exchanges.</li> <li>• Require guarantee issue and renewability and allow rating variation based only on age (limited to 5 to 1 ratio), tobacco use (limited to 1.5. to 1 ratio), family composition, and geography in the non-group and the small group market (new rules for small group market will be phased-in over five years). Require risk adjustment in individual and small group markets and prohibit insurers from rescinding coverage.</li> <li>• Require the exchanges to develop a standardized format for presenting insurance options, create a web portal to help consumers find insurance, maintain a call center for customer service, and establish procedures for enrolling individuals and businesses and for determining eligibility for tax credits.</li> <li>• Create four benefit categories of plans plus a separate “young invincible plan” to be offered through the exchange, and in the individual and small group markets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Bronze plan</i> represents minimum creditable coverage and would cover 65% of the benefit costs of the plan, with an out-of-pocket limit equal to the Health Savings Account (HSA) current law limit (\$5,950 for individuals and \$11,900 for families);</li> <li>– <i>Silver plan</i> includes minimum benefits, covers 70% of the benefit costs of the plan, with the HSA out-of-pocket limits;</li> <li>– <i>Gold plan</i> includes the minimum benefits, covers 80% of the benefit costs of the plan, with the HSA out-of-pocket limits;</li> <li>– <i>Platinum plan</i> includes the minimum benefits, covers 90% of the benefit costs of the plan, with the HSA out-of-pocket limits;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create three benefit tiers of plans to be offered through the Gateways based on the percentage of allowed benefit costs covered by the plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Tier 1: includes the essential health benefits and covers 76% of the benefit costs of the plan;</li> <li>– Tier 2: includes the essential health benefits and covers 84% of the benefit costs of the plan;</li> <li>– Tier 3: includes the essential health benefits and covers 93% of the benefit costs of the plan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Require guarantee issue and renewability of health insurance policies in the individual and small group markets; prohibit pre-existing condition exclusions; and allow rating variation based only on family structure, geography, the actuarial value of the health plan benefit, tobacco use, and age (with only 2 to 1 variation).</li> <li>• Require plans participating in the Gateway to provide coverage for at least the essential health care benefits, meet network adequacy requirements, and make information regarding plan benefits service area, premium and cost sharing, and grievance and appeal procedures available to consumers.</li> <li>• Require states to adjust payments to health plans based on the actuarial risk of plan enrollees using methods established by the Secretary.</li> <li>• Require the Gateway to certify participating health plans, provide consumers with information allowing them to choose among plans (including through a centralized website), contract with navigators to conduct outreach and enrollment assistance, create a single point of entry for enrolling in coverage through the Gateway or through Medicaid, CHIP or other federal programs, and assist consumers with the purchase of long-term care services and supports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a new public health insurance option to be offered through the Health Insurance Exchange that must meet the same requirements as private plans regarding benefit levels, provider networks, consumer protections, and cost-sharing. Require the public plan to offer basic, enhanced, and premium plans, and permit it to offer premium plus plans. Finance the costs of the public plan through revenues from premiums. For the first three years, set provider payment rates in the public plan at Medicare rates and allow bonus payments of 5% for providers that participate in both Medicare and the public plan and for pediatricians and other providers that don't typically participate in Medicare. In subsequent years, permit the Secretary to establish a process for setting rates. <i>[E&amp;C Committee amendment: Require the public health insurance option to negotiate rates with providers so that the rates are not lower than Medicare rates and not higher than the average rates paid by other qualified health benefit plan offering entities.]</i> Health care providers participating in Medicare are considered participating providers in the public plan unless they opt out. Permit the public plan to develop innovative payment mechanisms, including medical home and other care management payments, value-based purchasing, bundling of services, differential payment rates, performance based payments, or partial capitation and modify cost sharing and payment rates to encourage use of high-value services. <i>[E&amp;C Committee amendment: Clarify that the public health insurance option must meet the same requirements as other plans relating to guarantee issue and renewability, insurance rating rules, network adequacy, and transparency of information.]</i> <i>[E&amp;C Committee amendment: Require the public health insurance option to adopt a prescription drug formulary.]</i></li> </ul>

	Senate Finance Committee America's Healthy Future Act of 2009	Senate HELP Committee Affordable Health Choices Act	House Tri-Committee America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 (H.R. 3200)
<p>Creation of insurance pooling mechanisms (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Young Invincible plan</i> available to those 25 years old and younger and provides catastrophic coverage only with the coverage level set at the HSA current law levels except that prevention benefits would be exempt from the deductible.</li> <li>• Require that at least one plan in the exchanges provide coverage for abortions beyond those for which federal funds are permitted and require that at least one plan in the exchange does not provide coverage for abortions beyond those for which federal funds are permitted (in cases of rape or incest or to save the life of the woman). Prohibit plans participating in the exchanges from discriminating against any provider because of a willingness or unwillingness to provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or refer for abortions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following initial federal support, the Gateway will be funded by a surcharge of no more than 4% of premiums collected by participating health plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create four benefit categories of plans to be offered through the Exchange: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Basic plan</i> includes essential benefits package and covers 70% of the benefit costs of the plan;</li> <li>- <i>Enhanced plan</i> includes essential benefits package, reduced cost sharing compared to the basic plan, and covers 85% of benefit costs of the plan;</li> <li>- <i>Premium plan</i> includes essential benefits package with reduced cost sharing compared to the enhanced plan and covers 95% of the benefit costs of the plan;</li> <li>- <i>Premium plus plan</i> is a premium plan that provides additional benefits, such as oral health and vision care.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Require guarantee issue and renewability; allow rating variation based only on age (limited to 2 to 1 ratio), premium rating area, and family enrollment; and limit the medical loss ratio to a specified percentage.</li> <li>• Require plans participating in the Exchange to be state licensed, report data as required, implement affordability credits, meet network adequacy standards, provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services, contract with essential community providers, and participate in risk pooling. Require participating plans to offer one basic plan for each service area and permit them to offer additional plans. [<i>E&amp;C Committee amendment: Require plans to provide information related to end-of-life planning to individuals and provide the option to establish advance directives and physician's order for life sustaining treatment.</i>]</li> <li>• Require risk adjustment of participating Exchange plans.</li> <li>• Provide information to consumers to enable them to choose among plans in the Exchange, including establishing a telephone hotline and maintaining a website and provide information on open enrollment periods and how to enroll.</li> </ul>

	Senate Finance Committee America's Healthy Future Act of 2009	Senate HELP Committee Affordable Health Choices Act	House Tri-Committee America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 (H.R. 3200)
<p>Creation of insurance pooling mechanisms (continued)</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [E&amp;C Committee amendment: Prohibit plans participating in the Exchange from discriminating against any provider because of a willingness or unwillingness to provide abortions.]</li> <li>• [E&amp;C Committee amendment: Facilitate the establishment of non-for-profit, member-run health insurance cooperatives to provide insurance through the Exchange.]</li> <li>• Allow states to operate state-based exchanges if they demonstrate the capacity to meet the requirements for administering the Exchange.</li> </ul>
<p>Benefit design</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create minimum creditable coverage that provides a comprehensive set of services, covers 65% of the actuarial value of the covered benefits, limits annual cost-sharing to \$5,950/individual and \$11,900/family, and does not impose annual or lifetime limits on coverage. (See description of benefit categories in Creation of insurance pooling mechanism.)</li> <li>• Prohibit abortion coverage from being required as part of the minimum benefits package; require segregation of public subsidy funds from private premium payments for plans that choose to cover abortion services beyond Hyde—which allows coverage for abortion services to save the life of the woman and in cases of rape or incest; and require there be no effect on state or federal laws on abortions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create the essential health care benefits package that provides a comprehensive array of services and prohibits inclusion of lifetime or annual limits on the dollar value of the benefits. The essential health benefits must be included in all qualified health plans and must be equal to the scope of benefits provided by a typical employer plan. Create a temporary, independent commission to advise the Secretary in the development of the essential health benefit package.</li> <li>• Specify the criteria for minimum qualifying coverage for purposes of meeting the individual mandate for coverage, and an affordability standard such that coverage is deemed unaffordable if the premium exceeds 12.5% of an individual's adjusted gross income.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create an essential benefits package that provides a comprehensive set of services, covers 70% of the actuarial value of the covered benefits, limits annual cost-sharing to \$5,000/individual and \$10,000/family, and does not impose annual or lifetime limits on coverage. The Health Benefits Advisory Council, chaired by the Surgeon General, will make recommendations on specific services to be covered by the essential benefits package as well as cost-sharing levels. [E&amp;L Committee amendment: Require early and periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment (EPSDT) services for children under age 21 be included in the essential benefits package.] [E&amp;C Committee amendment: Prohibit abortion coverage from being required as part of the essential benefits package; require segregation of public subsidy funds from private premium payments for plans that choose to cover abortion services beyond Hyde—which allows coverage for abortion services to save the life of the woman and in cases of rape or incest; and require there be no effect on state or federal laws on abortions.]</li> <li>• All qualified health benefits plans, including those offered through the Exchange and those offered outside of the Exchange (except certain grandfathered individual and employer-sponsored plans) must provide at least the essential benefits package.</li> </ul>

	Senate Finance Committee America's Healthy Future Act of 2009	Senate HELP Committee Affordable Health Choices Act	House Tri-Committee America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 (H.R. 3200)
<p>Changes to private insurance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impose the same insurance market regulations relating to guarantee issue, premium rating, prohibitions on pre-existing condition exclusions, risk adjustment, and rescissions in the individual market, in the exchange, and in the small group market, phasing in the new rules for small group market over five years. (See new rating and market rules in Creation of insurance pooling mechanism.)</li> <li>• Require health plans to report the proportion of premium dollars spent on items other than medical care and require plans to compile information on coverage in a standard format.</li> <li>• Require all new policies to comply with one of the four benefit categories, including those offered through the exchanges and those offered outside of the exchanges. Require health plans in the individual and small group markets to at least offer coverage in the silver and gold categories. Existing individual and employer-sponsored plans do not have to meet the new benefit standards. (See description of benefit categories in Creation of insurance pooling mechanism.)</li> <li>• Allow states the option of merging the individual and small group markets.</li> <li>• Create a temporary reinsurance program to help stabilize premiums during the first three years of operation of the exchanges when the risk of adverse selection due to enforcement of the new rating rules and market changes is greatest. Finance the reinsurance program through mandatory contributions by health insurers.</li> <li>• Allow insurers to offer a national health plan with a uniform benefits package in the states in which they are licensed. National plans would be required to offer plans with silver and gold benefit packages and would be exempt from state benefit requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impose the same insurance market regulations relating to guarantee issue, premium rating, and prohibitions on pre-existing condition exclusions in the individual and small group markets and in the American Health Benefit Gateways (see creation of insurance pooling mechanism).</li> <li>• Require health insurers to report their medical loss ratio.</li> <li>• Require health insurers to provide financial incentives to providers to better coordinate care through case management and chronic disease management, promote wellness and health improvement activities, improve patient safety, and reduce medical errors.</li> <li>• Provide dependent coverage for children up to age 26 for all individual and group policies.</li> <li>• Require insurers and group plans to notify enrollees if coverage does not meet minimum qualifying coverage standards for purposes of satisfying the individual mandate for coverage.</li> <li>• Permit licensed health insurers to sell health insurance policies outside of the Gateway. States will regulate these outside-the-Gateway plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prohibit coverage purchased through the individual market from qualifying as acceptable coverage for purposes of the individual mandate unless it is grandfathered coverage. Individuals can purchase a qualifying health benefit plan through the Health Insurance Exchange.</li> <li>• Impose the same insurance market regulations relating to guarantee issue, premium rating, and prohibitions on pre-existing condition exclusions in the insured group market and in the Exchange (see creation of insurance pooling mechanism).</li> <li>• Limit health plans' medical loss ratio to a percentage specified by the Secretary to be enforced through a rebate back to consumers. [<i>E&amp;L Committee amendment: Limit health plans' medical loss ratio to at least 85%.</i>]</li> <li>• Improve consumer protections by establishing uniform marketing standards, requiring fair grievance and appeals mechanisms, and prohibiting insurers from rescinding health insurance coverage except in cases of fraud.</li> <li>• Adopt standards for financial and administrative transactions to promote administrative simplification.</li> <li>• Create the Health Choices Administration to establish the qualifying health benefits standards, establish the Exchange, administer the affordability credits, and enforce the requirements for qualified health benefit plan offering entities, including those participating in the Exchange or outside the Exchange.</li> </ul>

	Senate Finance Committee America's Healthy Future Act of 2009	Senate HELP Committee Affordable Health Choices Act	House Tri-Committee America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 (H.R. 3200)
Changes to private insurance (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permit states to form health care choice compacts and allow insurers to sell policies in any state participating in the compact. Insurers selling policies through a compact would only be subject to the laws and regulations of the state where the policy is written or issued.</li> </ul>		
State role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require states to create health insurance exchanges for individuals and small businesses and require state insurance commissioners to provide oversight of health plans with regard to the new insurance market regulations, consumer protections, rate reviews, solvency, reserve fund requirements, and premium taxes, and to define rating areas.</li> <li>Require states to enroll newly eligible Medicaid beneficiaries into state Medicaid programs, coordinate enrollment with the new exchanges, and implement other specified changes to the Medicaid program. Require states to maintain Medicaid and CHIP eligibility levels until 2013 for those with incomes above 133% FPL and until 2014 for those with incomes at or below 133% FPL.</li> <li>Require states to establish an ombudsman office to serve as an advocate for people with private coverage in the individual and small group markets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish American Health Benefit Gateways meeting federal standards and adopt individual and small group market regulation changes.</li> <li>Implement Medicaid eligibility expansions and adopt federal standards and protocols for facilitating enrollment of individuals in federal and state health and human services programs.</li> <li>Create temporary "RightChoices" programs to provide uninsured individuals with immediate access to preventive care and treatment for identified chronic conditions. States will receive federal grants to finance these programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require states to enroll newly eligible Medicaid beneficiaries into the state Medicaid programs and to implement the specified changes with respect to provider payment rates, benefit enhancements, quality improvement, and program integrity.</li> <li>Require states to maintain Medicaid and CHIP eligibility standards, methodologies, or procedures that were in place as of June 16, 2009 as a condition of receiving federal Medicaid or CHIP matching payments.</li> <li>Require states to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Health Insurance Exchange to coordinate enrollment of individuals in Exchange-participating health plans and under the state's Medicaid program.</li> <li>May require states to determine eligibility for affordability credits through the Health Insurance Exchange.</li> </ul>

	Senate Finance Committee America's Healthy Future Act of 2009	Senate HELP Committee Affordable Health Choices Act	House Tri-Committee America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 (H.R. 3200)
Cost containment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restructure payments to Medicare Advantage plans to base payments on plan bids with bonus payments for quality, performance improvement, care coordination and efficiency.</li> <li>• Reduce annual market basket updates for inpatient hospital, home health, skilled nursing facility, hospice and other Medicare providers, and adjust for productivity.</li> <li>• Freeze the threshold for income-related Medicare Part B premiums through 2019, and reduce the Medicare Part D premium subsidy for those with incomes above \$85,000/individual and \$170,000/couples.</li> <li>• Establish an independent Medicare Commission to submit proposals for reducing excess Medicare cost growth by targeted amounts. Proposals submitted by the Commission must be acted on by Congress and if a legislative package with the targeted level of Medicare savings is not enacted, the Commission's proposal will go into effect automatically.</li> <li>• Reduce Medicare DSH payments by an amount proportional to the percentage point decrease in the uninsured for the period evaluated.</li> <li>• Eliminate the Medicare Improvement Fund.</li> <li>• Allow providers organized as accountable care organizations (ACOs) that voluntarily meet quality thresholds to share in the cost-savings they achieve for the Medicare program. To qualify as an ACO, organizations must agree to be accountable for the overall care of their Medicare beneficiaries, have adequate participation of primary care physicians and specialists, define processes to promote evidence-based medicine, report on quality and costs measure, and coordinate care.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a Health Care Program Integrity Coordinating Council and two new federal department positions to oversee policy, program development, and oversight of health care fraud, waste, and abuse in public and private coverage.</li> <li>• Simplify health insurance administration by adopting standards for financial and administrative transactions, including timely and transparent claims and denial management processes and use of standard electronic transactions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simplify health insurance administration by adopting standards for financial and administrative transactions, including timely and transparent claims and denial management processes and use of standard electronic transactions.</li> <li>• <i>[E&amp;C Committee amendment: Limit annual increases in the premiums charged under any health plans participating in the Exchange to no more than 150% of the annual percentage increase in medical inflation. Provide exceptions if this limit would threaten a health plan's financial viability.]</i></li> <li>• Modify provider payments under Medicare including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Modify market basket updates to account for productivity improvements for inpatient hospital, home health, skilled nursing facility, and other Medicare providers; and</li> <li>– Reduce payments for potentially preventable hospital readmissions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Restructure payments to Medicare Advantage plans, phasing to 100% of fee-for-services payments, with bonus payments for quality.</li> <li>• Increase the Medicaid drug rebate percentage and extend the prescription drug rebate to Medicaid managed care plans. Require drug manufacturers to provide drug rebates for dual eligibles enrolled in Part D plans.</li> <li>• <i>[E&amp;C Committee amendment: Require the Secretary to negotiate directly with pharmaceutical manufacturers to lower drug prices for Medicare Part D plans and Medicare Advantage Part D plans.]</i></li> <li>• <i>[E&amp;C Committee amendment: Authorize the Food and Drug Administration to approve generic versions of biologic drugs and grant biologics manufacturers 12 years of exclusive use before generics can be developed.]</i></li> </ul>

	Senate Finance Committee America's Healthy Future Act of 2009	Senate HELP Committee Affordable Health Choices Act	House Tri-Committee America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 (H.R. 3200)
<p><b>Cost containment</b> (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create an Innovation Center within the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to test, evaluate, and expand in Medicare different payment structures and methodologies to foster patient-centered care, improve quality, and slow Medicare costs growth. Payment reform models that improve quality and reduce the rate of costs could be expanded throughout the Medicare program.</li> <li>• Reduce payments for preventable hospital readmissions in Medicare: for hospitals with readmission rates above a certain threshold reduce payments by 20% if a patient is re-hospitalized with a preventable readmission within seven days and by 10% if a patient is re-hospitalized with a preventable readmission within 15 days, and reduce payments by 1% to hospitals with the highest rates of hospital acquired conditions.</li> <li>• Increase the Medicaid drug rebate percentage for brand name drugs to 23.1, increase the Medicaid rebate for non-innovator, multiple source drugs to 13% of average manufacturer price, and extend the drug rebate to Medicaid managed care plans.</li> <li>• Reduce a state's Medicaid DSH allotment by 50% (25% for low DSH states) once the uninsured rate decreases by at least 50%. DSH allotments will be further reduced, not to fall below 35% of the total allotment in 2012 if states' uninsured rates continue to decrease. Exempt any portion of the DSH allotment used to expand Medicaid eligibility through a section 1115 waiver.</li> <li>• Prohibit federal payments to states for Medicaid services related to health care acquired conditions.</li> <li>• Eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse in public programs through more intensive screening of providers, the development of the "One PI database" to capture and share data across federal and state programs, increased penalties for submitting false claims, and increase funding for anti-fraud activities.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce Medicaid DSH payments by \$6 billion in 2019, imposing the largest percentage reductions in state DSH allotments in states with the lowest uninsured rates and those that do not target DSH payments.</li> <li>• Require hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to report on health care-associated infections to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and refuse Medicaid payments for certain health care-associated conditions.</li> <li>• Reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in public programs by allowing provider screening, enhanced oversight periods, and enrollment moratoria in areas identified as being at elevated risk of fraud in all public programs, and by requiring Medicare and Medicaid program providers and suppliers to establish compliance programs.</li> </ul>

	Senate Finance Committee America's Healthy Future Act of 2009	Senate HELP Committee Affordable Health Choices Act	House Tri-Committee America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 (H.R. 3200)
<p>Improving quality/health system performance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simplify health insurance administration by adopting a single set of operating rules for eligibility verification, claims status, claims payment, and the electronic transfer of funds.</li> <li>• Establish a non-profit Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to identify research priorities and conduct research that compares the clinical effectiveness of medical treatments. The Institute will be overseen by an appointed multi-stakeholder Board of Governors and will be assisted by expert advisory panels.</li> <li>• Encourage states to develop and test alternatives to the current civil litigation system as a way to improve patient safety, reduce medical errors, increase the availability of a prompt and fair resolution of disputes, and improve access to liability insurance, while preserving an individual's right to seek redress in court. Recommend that Congress consider establishing a state demonstration project to evaluate alternatives to the current litigation system.</li> <li>• Establish a national Medicare pilot program to develop and evaluate paying a bundled payment for acute, inpatient hospital services and post-acute care services for an episode of care that begins three days prior to a hospitalization and spans 30 days following discharge. If the pilot program achieves stated goals, develop a plan for making the pilot a permanent part of the Medicare program.</li> <li>• Establish a hospital value-based purchasing program in Medicare to pay hospitals based on performance on quality measures and extend the Medicare physician quality reporting initiative beyond 2010.</li> <li>• Improve care coordination for dual eligibles by creating a new office within the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services, the Office of Coordination for Dual Eligible Beneficiaries, to align Medicare and Medicaid financing, administration, oversight rules, and policies for dual eligibles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a national strategy to improve the delivery of health care services, patient health outcomes, and population health that includes publishing an annual national health care quality report card. Create an inter-agency Working Group on Health Care Quality to coordinate and streamline federal quality activities related to the national quality strategy.</li> <li>• Develop, through a multi-stakeholder process, quality measures that allow assessments of health outcomes; continuity and coordination of care; safety, effectiveness and timeliness of care; health disparities; and appropriate use of health care resources. Require public reporting on quality measures through a user-friendly website.</li> <li>• Create a Center for Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation within the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to conduct and synthesize research on the effectiveness of health care services and procedures to provide providers and patients with information on the most effective therapies for preventing and treating health conditions.</li> <li>• Provide grants for improving health system efficiency, including grants to establish community health teams to support a medical home model; to implement medication management services; to design and implement regional emergency care and trauma systems.</li> <li>• Require hospitals to report preventable readmission rates; hospitals with high re-admission rates will be required to work with local patient safety organizations to improve their rates.</li> <li>• Create a Patient Safety Research Center charged with identifying, evaluating, and disseminating information on best practices for improving health care quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support comparative effectiveness research by establishing a Center for Comparative Effectiveness Research within the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to conduct, support, and synthesize research on outcomes, effectiveness, and appropriateness of health care services and procedures. An independent CER Commission will oversee the activities of the Center. <i>[E&amp;C Committee amendment: Prohibit use of comparative effectiveness research findings to deny or ration care or to make coverage decisions in Medicare.]</i></li> <li>• Strengthen primary care and care coordination by increasing Medicaid payments for primary care providers, providing Medicare bonus payments to primary care practitioners (with larger bonuses paid to primary care practitioners serving in health professional shortage areas).</li> <li>• Conduct Medicare pilot programs to test payment incentive models for accountable care organizations and bundling of post-acute care payments, and conduct pilot programs in Medicare and Medicaid to assess the feasibility of reimbursing qualified patient-centered medical homes. <i>[E&amp;C Committee amendment: Adopt accountable care organization, bundled payment, and medical home models on a large scale if pilot programs prove successful at reducing costs.]</i> <i>[E&amp;C Committee amendment: Conduct accountable care organization pilot programs in Medicaid.]</i></li> <li>• <i>[E&amp;C Committee amendment: Establish the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Payment Innovation Center to test payment models that address populations experiencing poor clinical outcomes or avoidable expenditures. Evaluate all models and expand those models that improve quality without increasing spending or reduce spending without reducing quality, or both.]</i></li> </ul>

	Senate Finance Committee America's Healthy Future Act of 2009	Senate HELP Committee Affordable Health Choices Act	House Tri-Committee America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 (H.R. 3200)
<p>Improving quality/health system performance (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a national quality improvement strategy that includes priorities to improve the delivery of health care services, patient health outcomes, and population health. Create processes for the development of quality measures involving input from multiple stakeholders and for selecting quality measures to be used in reporting to and payment under federal health programs. Establish the Medicaid Quality Measurement Program to establish priorities for the development and advancement of quality measures for adults in Medicaid.</li> <li>• Require enhanced collection and reporting of data on race, ethnicity, and primary language. Also require collection of access and treatment data for people with disabilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create an inter-agency Working Group to coordinate and streamline federal quality activities.</li> <li>• Develop interoperable standards for using HIT to enroll individuals in public programs and provide grants to states and other governmental entities to adopt and implement enrollment technology.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>[W&amp;M Committee amendment: Require the Institute of Medicine to conduct a study on geographic variation in health care spending and recommend strategies for addressing this variation by promoting high-value care.]</i></li> <li>• Improve coordination of care for dual eligibles by creating a new office or program within the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.</li> <li>• Establish the Center for Quality Improvement to identify, develop, evaluate, disseminate, and implement best practices in the delivery of health care services. Develop national priorities for performance improvement and quality measures for the delivery of health care services.</li> <li>• Require disclosure of financial relationships between health entities, including physicians, hospitals, pharmacists, and other providers, and manufacturers and distributors of covered drugs, devices, biologicals, and medical supplies.</li> <li>• Reduce racial and ethnic disparities by conducting a study on the feasibility of developing Medicare payment systems for language services, providing Medicare demonstration grants to reimburse culturally and linguistically appropriate services and developing standards for the collection of data on race, ethnicity, and primary language.</li> <li>• <i>[E&amp;C Committee amendment: Conduct a national public education campaign to raise awareness about the importance of planning for care near the end of life.]</i></li> </ul>

	Senate Finance Committee America's Healthy Future Act of 2009	Senate HELP Committee Affordable Health Choices Act	House Tri-Committee America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 (H.R. 3200)
Prevention/wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide Medicare beneficiaries access to a comprehensive health risk assessment and creation of a personalized prevention plan, eliminate cost-sharing for certain preventive services in Medicare. Cover only proven preventive services in Medicare and Medicaid and provide incentives to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries to complete behavior modification programs.</li> <li>• Require Medicaid coverage for tobacco cessation services for pregnant women, and for states that provide coverage for and remove cost-sharing for preventive services recommended by the US Preventive Services Task Force and recommended immunizations, provide a one percentage point increase in the FMAP for these services and for the tobacco cessation services.</li> <li>• Create a new Medicaid state plan option to permit Medicaid enrollees with at least two chronic conditions or one condition and risk of developing another to designate a provider as a health home. Provide states taking up the option with 90% FMAP for two years.</li> <li>• Prohibit insurance plans (except existing grandfathered plans and those that use a value-based insurance design) from charging cost-sharing for preventive services.</li> <li>• Allow insurers to vary premium rates based on tobacco use. Any insurer that rates based on tobacco use must provide coverage for comprehensive tobacco cessation programs, including counseling and pharmacotherapy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a national prevention and health promotion strategy that sets specific goals for improving health. Create a prevention and public health investment fund to expand and sustain funding for prevention and public health programs.</li> <li>• Award competitive grants to state and local governments and community-based organizations to implement and evaluate proven community preventive health activities to reduce chronic disease rates and address health disparities.</li> <li>• Permit insurers to create incentives for health promotion and disease prevention practices.</li> <li>• Encourage employers to provide wellness programs by conducting targeted educational campaigns to raise awareness of the value of these programs and by increasing the allowable premium discount for employees who participate in these programs from 20 percent to 30 percent.</li> <li>• Create a temporary Right Choices Program to provide uninsured adults with access to preventive services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a national strategy to improve the nation's health through evidenced-based clinical and community-based prevention and wellness activities. Create task forces on Clinical Preventive Services and Community Preventive Services to develop, update, and disseminate evidenced-based recommendations on the use of clinical and community prevention services.</li> <li>• Improve prevention by covering only proven preventive services in Medicare and Medicaid. Eliminate any cost-sharing for preventive services in Medicare and increase Medicare payments for certain preventive services to 100% of actual charges or fee schedule rates.</li> </ul>

	Senate Finance Committee America's Healthy Future Act of 2009	Senate HELP Committee Affordable Health Choices Act	House Tri-Committee America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 (H.R. 3200)
Long-term care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow cafeteria plans to offer long-term care insurance contracts as a qualified benefit so that employee contributions for the long-term care insurance premiums can be made on a pre-tax basis. Permit reimbursement for employee premiums for long-term care insurance through flexible spending accounts on a pre-tax basis.</li> <li>• Extend the Medicaid Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration program through September 2016 and allocate \$10 million per year for five years to continue the Aging and Disability Resource Center initiatives.</li> <li>• Improve transparency of information about skilled nursing facilities (SNF) and nursing homes, enforcement of SNF and nursing home standards and rules, and training of SNF and nursing home staff.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a national, voluntary insurance program for purchasing community living assistance services and supports (CLASS program). The program will provide individuals with functional limitations a cash benefit to purchase non-medical services and supports necessary to maintain community residence. The program is financed through voluntary payroll deductions: all working adults will be automatically enrolled in the program, unless they choose to opt-out.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>[E&amp;C Committee amendment: Establish a national, voluntary insurance program for purchasing community living assistance services and supports (CLASS program). The program will provide individuals with functional limitations a cash benefit to purchase non-medical services and supports necessary to maintain community residence. The program is financed through voluntary payroll deductions: all working adults will be automatically enrolled in the program, unless they choose to opt-out.]</i></li> <li>• Improve transparency of information about skilled nursing facilities and nursing facilities.</li> </ul>
Other investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a 50% discount on brand-name prescriptions filled in the Medicare Part D coverage gap for enrollees, other than those who receive low-income subsidies and those with incomes above \$85,000/individual and \$170,000/couples.</li> <li>• Provide a one-year increase in physician payments under Medicare to prevent a reduction in fees that would otherwise take effect, with 10% bonus payments for primary care. Provide general surgeons and primary care physicians practicing in health professional shortage areas with a 10% Medicare bonus.</li> <li>• Establish a multi-stakeholder Workforce Advisory Committee to develop a national workforce strategy for recruiting, training, and retaining a health care workforce that meets current and projected health care needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a National Health Care Workforce Commission to make recommendations and disseminate information on health workforce priorities, goals, and policies including education and training, workforce supply and demand, and retention practices.</li> <li>• Reform Graduate Medical Education to increase the supply, education, and training of doctors, nurses, and other health care workers, especially in pediatric, geriatric, and primary care.</li> <li>• Improve access to care by providing additional funding to increase the number of community health centers and school-based health centers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make improvements to the Medicare program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Reform the sustainable growth rate for physicians, with incentive payments for primary care services, and for services in efficient areas;</li> <li>– Eliminate the Medicare Part D coverage gap (phased in over 15 years) and require drug manufacturers to provide a 50% discount on brand-name prescriptions filled in the coverage gap;</li> <li>– Increase the asset test for Medicare Savings Program and Part D Low-Income Subsidies to \$17,000/\$34,000; and</li> <li>– Eliminate any cost-sharing for preventive services in Medicare and increase Medicare payments for certain preventive services to 100% of actual charges or fee schedule rates.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	Senate Finance Committee America's Healthy Future Act of 2009	Senate HELP Committee Affordable Health Choices Act	House Tri-Committee America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 (H.R. 3200)
Other investments (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of Graduate Medical Education (GME) training positions by redistributing currently unused slots, with priorities given to primary care and general surgery, and increase flexibility in laws and regulations that govern GME funding to promote training in outpatient settings, and ensure the availability of residency programs in rural and underserved areas.</li> <li>• Impose additional requirements on non-profit hospitals to conduct a community needs assessment every three years and adopt an implementation strategy to meet the identified needs, adopt and widely publicize a financial assistance policy that indicates whether free or discounted care is available and how to apply for the assistance, limit charges to patients who qualify for financial assistance to the amount generally billed to insured patients, and make reasonable attempts to inform patients about the financial assistance policy before undertaking extraordinary collection actions.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reform Graduate Medical Education to increase training of primary care providers by redistributing residency positions and promote training in outpatient settings and support the development of primary care training programs.</li> <li>• Support training of health professionals, including advanced education nurses, who will practice in underserved areas; establish a public health workforce corps; and promote training of a diverse workforce and provide cultural competence training for health care professionals. <i>[E&amp;C Committee amendment: Support the development of interdisciplinary mental and behavioral health training programs.] [E&amp;C Committee amendment: Establish a training program for oral health professionals.]</i></li> <li>• Provide grants to each state health department to address core public health infrastructure needs.</li> <li>• Conduct a study of the feasibility of adjusting the federal poverty level to reflect variations in the cost of living across different areas. • <i>[E&amp;L Committee amendment: Grant waivers to requirements related to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) to states seeking to establish a state single payer system.]</i></li> </ul>
Financing	<p>CBO estimates the cost of the coverage components of the plan to be \$774 billion over ten years. These costs are financed through a combination of savings from Medicare and Medicaid and new taxes and fees. The primary sources of Medicare and Medicaid savings include incorporating productivity improvements into Medicare market basket updates, reducing payments to Medicare Advantage plans, creating the Medicare Commission charged with finding savings in the program, changing the Medicaid drug rebate provisions, and cutting Medicaid and Medicare DSH payments. (See descriptions of cost savings provisions in Cost containment.)</p>	<p>The Congressional Budget Office estimates this proposal will cost \$615 billion over 10 years. Because the Senate HELP Committee does not have jurisdiction over the Medicare and Medicaid programs nor revenue raising authority, mechanisms for financing the proposal will be developed in conjunction with the Senate Finance Committee.</p>	<p>The Congressional Budget Office estimates the net cost of the proposal (less payments from employers and uninsured individuals) to be \$1.042 trillion over ten years. Approximately half of the cost of the plan is financed through savings from Medicare and Medicaid, including incorporating productivity improvements into Medicare market basket updates, reducing payments to Medicare Advantage plans, changing drug rebate provisions, reducing potentially preventable hospital readmissions, and cutting Medicaid DSH payments. The remaining costs are financed through a surcharge imposed on families with incomes above \$350,000 and individuals with incomes above \$280,000.</p>

	Senate Finance Committee America's Healthy Future Act of 2009	Senate HELP Committee Affordable Health Choices Act	House Tri-Committee America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 (H.R. 3200)
<b>Financing</b> (continued)	The largest source of new revenue will come from an excise tax on high cost insurance—insurance plans that exceed \$8,000 for single coverage and \$21,000 for family coverage—which CBO estimates will raise \$215 billion over ten years. The threshold values for high cost plans are indexed to the CPI-U, which typically increases at a lower rate than health insurance premiums, so it is expected that this tax will raise more money over time. CBO estimates the proposal will reduce the deficit by \$49 billion over ten years.		The surcharge is equal to 1% for families with modified adjusted gross income between \$350,000 and \$500,000; 1.5% for families with modified adjusted gross income between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000; and 5.4% for families with modified adjusted gross income greater than \$1,000,000. These surcharge percentages may be adjusted if federal health reform achieves greater than expected savings.
<b>Sources of information</b>	<a href="http://www.finance.senate.gov/sitepages/baucus.htm">http://www.finance.senate.gov/sitepages/baucus.htm</a>	<a href="http://help.senate.gov/">http://help.senate.gov/</a>	<p><b>Ways and Means Committee:</b> <a href="http://waysandmeans.house.gov/MoreInfo.asp?section=52">http://waysandmeans.house.gov/MoreInfo.asp?section=52</a></p> <p><b>Energy and Commerce Committee:</b> <a href="http://energycommerce.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=1687&amp;catid=156&amp;Itemid=55">http://energycommerce.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=1687&amp;catid=156&amp;Itemid=55</a></p> <p><b>Education and Labor Committee:</b> <a href="http://edlabor.house.gov/newsroom/2009/07/ed-labor-approves-historic-hea.shtml">http://edlabor.house.gov/newsroom/2009/07/ed-labor-approves-historic-hea.shtml</a></p>

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