

June 26, 2007



Health Care Reform Talking Points

- The June, 2007 release of filmmaker Michael Moore's film "Sicko", serves as a platform to re-invigorate the national debate on health care reform among all of the 2008 US Presidential Candidates.
- ANA has a long track record – a period of 17 years – of supporting a restructured health care system that would ensure universal access to a standard package of essential health care services.
- ANA's comprehensive strategy for government, industry, consumers and health care providers to achieve health care reform supports, as the most preferred form, a single-payer mechanism;
 - However, ANA supports multiple reform efforts that will lead to truly universal, affordable, accessible, high-quality health care.
- ANA believes health coverage is a basic human right.
- By serving as one of the founding partners of Cover the Uninsured Week, (www.covertheuninsured.org) ANA has, for the last five years, advocated on behalf of those 115 million people – one-third of Americans - who are uninsured and underinsured.
- ANA believes that patients must be the central focus of the health care system.
 - The ultimate determining factor in the restructuring and delivery of healthcare programs and services should be patients' actual needs, not the expediency for insurers or providers.
- ANA believes we must refocus priorities and resources on wellness, prevention and health education.
 - Healthcare services should be restructured to create a better balance between the prevailing orientation toward illness and cure and a new commitment to wellness care.

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ANA's Health Care Reform Talking Points

- ANA advocates for reshaping and redirecting the nation's health care system away from the overuse of expensive, technology-driven, acute, hospital-based services to a new model in which a balance is struck between high-tech treatment and community-based services that focus primarily on prevention.
- The cyclical shortage of registered nurses and other health care workers is evidence of the fragility and flaws in the current health care system.
 - For healthcare to be accessible, effective, fair and affordable there must be an adequate supply of well-educated well-distributed and well-utilized registered nurses.

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