

Transform

Business Leaders for Health Care Transformation



Monday, November 9, 2020

Business Leaders for Health Care Transformation

614 South 4th Street #310

Philadelphia, PA 19147

hello@blhct.org

President-elect Joseph Biden
Vice President-elect Kamala Harris
PO Box 96663
Washington, DC 20077-7085

Dear President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris,

Congratulations on your historic White House win. You have been elected during a challenging time for the country. Four years of chaos and dangerous rhetoric from the executive branch have demoralized and divided Americans. Additionally, the country faces massive obstacles, including a deadly global pandemic and an economy, already plagued by inequalities, that is sputtering to regain traction.

Health care proved to be a dominating issue in the 2020 campaign. Nearly 15 million Americans lost their employer health insurance by mid-summer due to pandemic-related lay-offs. Meanwhile, the Trump administration continued a four-year long assault on the Affordable Care Act, threatening health insurance and vital pre-existing conditions protections for hundreds of millions of Americans.

You were elected with a clear mandate to fix our broken health care system. Poll after poll showed that health care is a top concern for Americans, second only to the economy. [Six in ten](#) adults don't want to see the Affordable Care Act overturned, including a majority of Democrats, Republicans, and independents. Your policy platform of lowering the Medicare age, creating a

Business Leaders for Health Care Transformation
www.BLHCT.org

public option to compete against private insurance companies, and lowering the cost of prescription drugs are popular and achievable.

Business Leaders for Health Care Transformation is a non-partisan organization representing more than 3,200 businesses across the country that know our broken health care system is holding the country back economically. The over-reliance on employers to pay for and administer health insurance has resulted in stagnant wages, sluggish job creation, and an unlevel playing field for businesses of all sizes.

Negotiating with a potentially Republican-led U.S. Senate will be challenging, but the proposals listed below are effective and popular across party lines. In the interest of getting the country back on track as quickly as possible, we urge your upcoming administration to consider the following health care policies during your 100 days in office:

COVID-19 mitigation and vaccines

We need an urgent, robust, and national plan to deal with the Coronavirus outbreak. First, the federal government needs to move swiftly to ensure that American families and impacted businesses have the financial resources to weather this storm. Next, we need to expand rapid testing and contact tracing across the country to monitor and mitigate the spread of the virus. Finally, the federal government should collaborate with local governments and non-profit organizations to plan for the free administration of safe and effective vaccines when they become available. Tackling this virus needs to be the administration's first and top priority.

Medicare Prices for All

The United States leads the world in the high cost of health care services and prescription drugs. [According to the Congressional Budget Office](#), the price of a one-night hospital stay is 89% higher when the patient has private health insurance compared with a Medicare patient. The federal government has tremendous power and influence to control health care costs both as a regulator and a purchaser. We urge your upcoming administration to expand the government's authority to create a standard and stable set of reimbursement rates for all major medical services, products, and prescription drugs. Medicare often pays discounted rates of between 20-40% for health care and enacting these standards across our system would save most middle class American families [\\$9,000 a year](#) in health care costs.

Restore and Expand the Affordable Care Act

The Affordable Care Act expanded health insurance to more than 20 million people and should be protected, restored, and expanded. We urge the full repeal of all executive actions and regulatory attacks by the Trump administration on the law. Additionally, commercial insurance products need to continue to be standardized and the basic benefits plans expanded to include all necessary medical care and services, including dental, vision, and ambulance travel. Finally, the market experience with low-value and

high deductible plans has not been a positive one in the last decade. We recommend eliminating plans that rely too heavily on patient cost-sharing. These plans undermine public health and discourage essential medical care.

Even before the COVID-19 crisis, Americans were concerned with health care affordability and access. There are real challenges facing our health care system and economy because of COVID-19, but beneath those concerns is a foundation already cracked. Further into your presidency, there will be opportunities to expand coverage for all Americans, including creating a Public Option that would compete directly with private health insurance companies.

We look forward to working with you and your administration to create a world-class health care system in the United States that puts patients, not profits, first.

Sincerely,

Richard Master

CEO, MCS Industries Inc.

Chairman, Business Leaders for Health Care Transformation

Wendell Potter

President, Business Leaders for Health Care Transformation

Daniel Barlow

Executive Director, Business Leaders for Health Care Transformation