The Business Perspective on Health Care:
The Time for Action Is Now

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Business Roundtable
National Academy of Social Insurance Annual Meeting
February 2, 2007
About Business Roundtable

• An association of chief executive officers of leading U.S. companies working to advocate for policies that will ensure a strong economy

• Roundtable companies represent more than 10 million employees and provide health care for more than 34 million Americans

• Roundtable companies have $4.5 trillion in annual revenues, comprise nearly a third of the total value of the U.S. stock market and collectively returned more than $112 billion in dividends to shareholders and the economy in 2005
The System Is Broken

- As we increase access, we must not bring more people into a broken system

- In 2006, for the fourth year in a row CEOs cited health care costs as their greatest cost pressure

- Staggering health care costs are sapping American businesses, slowing economic growth and burdening American households

- We must find a way to make the system more efficient and get more value from our health care dollars
Urgent Action Needed

• “We believe Congress must act urgently on comprehensive reforms so all Americans have access to affordable health care. The issues of the uninsured must be tackled, and health care costs must be reduced for all Americans, for our economy and for our companies.”

- Business Roundtable Testimony before U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
  January 10, 2007
Divided We Fail

• New partnership of Business Roundtable, AARP & SEIU

• Our goal:

  – Place health care reform and long-term financial security on top of the domestic agenda

  – Foster political will to find common sense, centrist solutions to expand access to affordable health care and strengthen retirement systems
Finding Common Ground

• Divided We Fail is a call to action for our political leaders

• Discovered three immediate, common objectives:
  – Pass health IT legislation
  – Improve the transparency of our health care system
  – Reauthorize and expand State Children’s Health Insurance Program
Business Roundtable’s Health Policy Agenda

- SCHIP/Covering the Uninsured
- Wellness & Prevention Programs
- Cost & Quality Transparency
- Health Information Technology
- Consumer Choice in Health Care
- Medical Malpractice Reform
- Tax Fairness
Expanding Access

• We are already paying for uncompensated care

• The private health care marketplace offers the best opportunity to expand coverage

• We must start by focusing on populations
  
  ❑ 2007 – SCHIP Reauthorization

• Tax fairness – making health insurance premiums tax deductible will expand coverage for individuals & working uninsured
Increasing Efficiency

• Health IT – major step in improving quality, efficiency and patient safety; will save up to $165 billion/year [RAND]

• Transparency – give consumers access to information on cost and quality of health care services

• Wellness/prevention – health care, not “sick care”

• Pay for performance – benchmark provider performance
The Time for Action is Now

• There is growing consensus that we must expand access and improve the quality of the system

• Everyone has a role to play – business, consumers, government

• We must begin a conversation

• Congress must come together in bipartisan approach

• Divided we fail