



Business Roundtable

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

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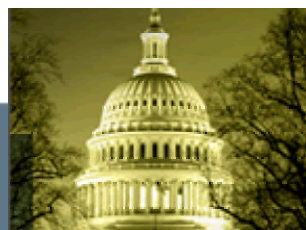
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National Academy of Social Insurance Annual Meeting

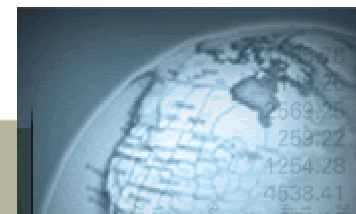
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LEADERSHIP



ECONOMIC  
GROWTH



# About Business Roundtable

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- 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



## Our health care system needs more than a get well card.

Leaders in Washington need to get serious about improving America's health care system. Business Roundtable CEOs, representing more than 10 million employees and providing health care coverage to more than 34 million Americans, are committed to working with Congress to transform our nation's health care. To enhance quality, affordability and access to care, the following steps must be taken:

- **Pass bipartisan legislation to accelerate the creation of a nationwide, interoperable health information infrastructure.** This will allow providers to access secure electronic records — whenever and wherever they are needed.
- **Release 100 percent of the Medicare claims database patient-protected information.** This will help consumers make informed health care decisions.
- **Expand coverage to the uninsured.** This is an important step toward providing greater access to quality care for all Americans and controlling overall health care costs.
- **Take action on medical liability reform.** Current damage awards and high costs of liability insurance are driving up health care costs for consumers and businesses.
- **Support consumer-centric health plans.** Allowing consumers to make informed health care choices will transform our system and lead to greater efficiency and higher quality care.

Learn more about our health care agenda at [www.businessroundtable.org](http://www.businessroundtable.org).



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- 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



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# Urgent Action Needed

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- “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.

Shouldn't the people who live in the strongest, greatest, wealthiest country in the world be able to enjoy a lifetime of long-term financial and health security? Shouldn't our leaders be able to work together to find solutions to the challenges that we all face? The answer is an emphatic and resounding "yes." That's why AARP, Business Roundtable and the Service Employees International Union have come together to urge leadership and action on the issues of health care and long-term financial security.

If the nation's largest membership organization and leaders from the business and labor sectors can unite to call for meaningful action for America's future, surely our elected officials should be able to do the same. To learn more about Divided We Fail and what you can do to champion a secure future for generations to come, visit [DividedWeFail.org](http://DividedWeFail.org).

**Together Americans will accomplish amazing things.**



## Divided We Fail

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- 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



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# Finding Common Ground

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- 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

**Divided we fail.**



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# 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

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- 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 **stroke** victim will get to the **hospital** at **9:01 PM**, but his **medical records** won't arrive until **11:00 AM** tomorrow



Land in an emergency room today and there's no quick way for doctors to verify your vital health records. Our antiquated system of health record keeping prevents timely access to the information critical to delivering the best care.

That's why Congress must bring the benefits of information technology to health care by helping providers acquire interoperable IT systems for access to secure electronic records—whenever and wherever they are needed. The result will be better patient care, fewer medical errors and lower health care costs—for a healthier America and a more vibrant economy.

The House and Senate have already passed health IT bills. It's now time for Congress to finish the job so patients can benefit sooner.

For more information, visit [www.businessroundtable.org](http://www.businessroundtable.org).

Improve America's Health Care  
Through Information Technology  
Congress—Act This Year!



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# The Time for Action is Now

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- 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

