



Q. What health care reform measures need to be enacted in New Jersey, and how should they be funded?

Chris Christie (Republican) – As New Jersey awaits the outcome of the federal debate on health care coverage, there are a number of steps that I have outlined that could serve to reduce the number of uninsured in the state. I have proposed that uninsured individuals be afforded the opportunity to purchase plans that do not include the dozens of mandated services now forced into every policy. Given the choice and opportunity, many New Jersey residents would welcome a plan that provides the basic and essential services without all the added features now forced into every policy. I have advocated for associations or affinity groups to be able to come together to design and acquire a policy, as well as the introduction of policies licensed in other states to

Jon Corzine (Democratic) - I believe that New Jersey should join a multi-state prescription drug buying pool, that we should negotiate lower drug costs, and that we need keep improving our middle-income prescription drug assistance programs. Our prescription drug assistance programs for seniors are stronger than ever. We use NJ's bargaining power to get significant rebates from the drug makers. We've focused on covering an extensive list of drugs with highly discounted pricing, instead of limiting coverage through a so-called "preferred drug list."

I also support expanding access to FamilyCare. We need to keep providing easy access to quality, affordable health care to New Jersey's working families. We will also continue to work to ensure that every child in the state has health insurance and getting the health care

Jason Cullen (People Not Politics) – State-run health-care is a welfare program that should be treated as such. As there are food stamps, so should be health-care stamps. State-run health-care is a rationing system that is used for last-resort/unemployment purposes. We should allow the chance for private investors to invest in charity care instead of having the state flip the bill. We also find ourselves with the need of TORT reform, having to revisit the 1100 plus regulations that go into basic plans, and have to bring government-sponsored care to basic, catastrophic needs that will prevent the majority of abuse seen in our current system.

Christopher Daggett (Independent for New Jersey) - We support federal legislation for universal health care coverage. It is premature to decide what measures need to be acted on in New Jersey to ensure all residents receive proper health care coverage until the debate in Washington is settled and a compromise measure emerges. It will undoubtedly have profound implications for Medicaid reimbursement, funding of care in state psychiatric and developmental

centers, and the charity care system in New Jersey hospitals. This issue likely will rise to become one of the top priorities for the next governor.

Kenneth Kaplan (Libertarian Party) – Health insurance companies should be allowed to sell a much broader spectrum of policies in New Jersey, from comprehensive to catastrophic, and everything in between. The state should not mandate what has to be included in any given policy. Let the buyer make those choices. Also, state law should allow health professionals other than physicians to perform the full range of functions that their education and experience qualifies them for. We need to make better use of physicians assistants, registered nurses, and nurse midwives. Alternative practitioners of healing arts should also be allowed to treat patients, provided they do not misrepresent their credentials.

Joshua Leinsdorf (Fair Election Party) - I support President Obama's health care reform proposals, including the public option. In addition, New Jersey needs to concentrate on demand reduction. Motor vehicle crashes are a major source of demand on health care services that can easily be eliminated. I favor mandatory seat belt use for all passengers. We will set a target of zero highway deaths and injuries. Studies show 40% of New Jersey drivers do not know the rules of the road. Any motorist, bicyclist or pedestrian who receives a traffic ticket will be required to retake a written drivers test or his or her license will be suspended. All cars will be required to come equipped with speedometers having a geometric scale reflecting the force of the crash at that speed.

Alvin Lindsay (Lindsay for Governor) - The type of health care system that should be implemented in New Jersey is a system that helps everyone; the poor, the homeless and the unemployed. If you are only making \$10,000 a year; your health care should be free, funded by the people, the rich and the poor. The details of the health care system would have to be worked out.

David Meiswinkle (Middle Class Empowerment) – Everyone should have affordable health care. Affordable, however has to be defined according to ones means. Certainly no one who has current health coverage should get worse coverage. Ideally there would be at some time a United States Constitutional Amendment stating that all United States citizens have the Right to Health. You have the right to be healthy, to maintain your health. Disease should not impact ones economic condition. Of course this would entail a funding mechanism which does not presently exist, but which should be debated; and is presently to some degree is being debated.

Gregory Pason (Socialist Party USA) - We need to push for a federal single-payer healthcare system. If the federal government won't give us single-payer, we need to create a statebased single payer system in New Jersey. The system will be supported by a progressive payroll tax and cover all residents.

Kostas Petris (For the People) – The health of our legal citizens is of vital importance and just like on the national level it is just as vexing and difficult on the state level. As we have seen in

Massachusetts they are going bankrupt in delivering universal care. We can not be a “nanny state” and direct the lives and choices of all of our residents. The health of our residents is too important to be left to some bureaucrat in Trenton or Washington dictating the health needs of our people. When you have universal health care, you must ration services because there just aren’t enough doctors to provide all of the needed services. There are many things that could be fixed in our present system, but government take over of

Gary Steele (Leadership, Independence, Vision) – The entire United States is talking about universal healthcare. The government says there are currently 47 million people who are not insured. They are trying to revamp a whole system by forcing people to obtain health insurance that either do not want it or do not need it. The healthcare system in the United States is one of the best in the world. A government is not there to force people to do things that they do not want to do. The funding of any program has to be evaluated very carefully. Our State cannot afford to pay for everything. We cannot afford any more taxes. A government that is big enough to pay for everything is also big enough to take away everything.

Gary Stein (Independent, multiple slogans) – Funny, I keep coming back to previous answers. The well’s run dry, and this question-concerning health care- is important. What can we do?

Yes- I have the answer. However, this really needs fixing at the federal level. If the Obama administration did what we’ll do in NJ, that is, eliminate cabinet level departments and immediately implement a hiring freeze, perhaps- China, plus rich Americans (who pay most of the taxes)- and future generations- might forgive our past, and current transgressions- and consent to a government backed health care reform bill, specifically Single Payer. I said as much, in the far left wing blog the Daily Kos- just before I was banned last June- in a Diary: “Health Care Reform Nailed Over Coffee and a Bagel”