



National Health Council

1730 M Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036-4561 • 202-785-3910 • www.nationalhealthcouncil.org • info@nhcouncil.org

The National Health Council Urges You to Call Your U.S. Senators and Representative *TODAY!*

INSTRUCTIONS

The script below is designed to help you collect your thoughts before you call your Congressman or Senators. Read it over. Take a minute to write down what you want to say. There is a place for you to insert your own story about the health care system. Stories help elected officials and staff understand more clearly that health care reform will impact the lives of real people.

Please remember there are numerous people calling Congress each day. Keep the conversation focused on health care reform. Don't get drawn into a debate over specific bills. Be courteous and thank the staff person at the end of the call.

When you are ready, call the toll-free phone numbers below on Wednesday, July 29 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Your calls will be redirected to the appropriate offices.

- **Call 1-866-308-6259 to reach your U.S. Representative. You will hear a pre-recorded message. Enter your zip code using the numbers on your touch-tone phone. Your call will be redirected to the Representative's office.**
- **Call 1-866-544-7573 to reach your U.S. Senators. Again, you will hear a pre-recorded message and will need to enter your zip code. You will then be asked whether you want your call to go to your state's junior Senator or your senior Senator. Each state has two U.S. Senators, and the senior Senator from your state has been in the Senate longer than the junior Senator. To send your call to your junior Senator, Press 1. To send your call to your senior Senator, Press 2. After making your selection, your call will be redirected to the appropriate office.**
- **If there is a problem transferring you to your elected officials, your call will go to the U.S. Capital operator who can assist you.**
- **If you get a busy signal, hang up and try again later. You will get through.**

*We are encouraging as many people at possible to call on **Wednesday, July 29**. If you are unable to call that day, this special phone lines will be open through **Friday, August 7**.*

***THANK YOU** for adding your voice to the millions of Americans committed to making meaningful health care reform a reality!*



National Health Council

1730 M Street NW, Suite 500 , Washington, DC 20036-4561 • 202-785-3910 • www.nationalhealthcouncil.org • info@nhcouncil.org

The National Health Council Urges You to Call Your U.S. Senators and Representative *TODAY!*

To reach your U.S. Representative, call: 1-866-308-6259

To reach your U.S. Senators, call: 1-866-544-7573

SCRIPT

Hi, my name is _____. I'm a voter from _____ (give your home town) _____.

May I please speak to the staff person who handles health care issues?

I would like to discuss why health care reform is important to me and my family.

The health care staff person may not be available to talk to you when you call. If so, continue your conversation with the receptionist.

Share your personal story. For example, one woman explained that she has rheumatoid arthritis. Because her health insurance would not cover new drug therapies she is now on federal disability instead of working and paying into Social Security.

There is a father who was diagnosed with ALS – Lou Gehrig's disease. His desire is for federal support of research to discover a treatment or a cure.

A mother wishes she had received better care for her heart condition, which may have spared her serious complications following her heart attack.

We all have stories – our own or those of family members – that can make the call for health care reform more real to elected officials and their staff. Share yours.

I ask that Congress support 5 CORE principles of health care reform.

Health care reform must

- Cover everyone,
- Curb costs responsibly,
- Abolish exclusions for pre-existing conditions,
- Eliminate lifetime caps on benefits, and
- Ensure access to long-term and end-of-life care.

All Americans deserve health care that meets these five principles. They were developed by the National Health Council.

I hope Congress will do the right thing and vote for health care reform that Puts Patients First. We can't wait. Thank you for your time.