



*Promoting innovation,  
competition, cost-  
effectiveness and  
quality*

The HLC is committed to advancing a market-based health care system that values innovation and provides affordable, high quality health care. As leaders of our nation's health care system, we share a vision of high-quality and innovative health care that is available to all.

Come join us as we meet with

**SENATOR  
ROBERT MENENDEZ (D-NJ)  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2008  
4:30 p.m.  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY**

Please contact Tom Maher, HLC Regional Director,  
at 603-431-2340 or [thomas.maher2@verizon.net](mailto:thomas.maher2@verizon.net) for more details  
or to confirm your participation.

HLC regional directors and member companies, local business allies and community health advocates from local Healthcare Leadership Teams to express the consensus of the health care industry on key health issues. HLC regional directors and Teams conduct meetings with members of Congress to educate them on priority health care issues and legislation.

*A Few Key Issues:*

**Access to Health Insurance Coverage for the Uninsured**

**Patient Safety and Quality**

**Confidentiality of Patient Medical Records**

**Medicare Modernization**

**Chronic Care Management and Wellness**

**Shortage of Qualified Medical Personnel**

**Medical Liability Reform**



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#### **Access to Health Insurance Coverage for the Uninsured:**

Improving access to health insurance remains HLC's key priority. There is no "one-size-fits-all" solution for the uninsured. Just as the reasons that people are uninsured are numerous, so must be the solutions. HLC leads the *Health Access America* campaign to help uninsured Americans find and sign-up for health insurance. **HLC supports a three-prong approach that includes subsidies for those who need it, improving public programs to cover as many people as possible, and making sure all Americans are aware of and understand the options available to them.**

#### **Patient Safety and Quality:**

HLC supports care coordination and the integration of technology to bring the right care to the right patient every time. HLC supports financial incentives and funding to encourage widespread adoption of health information technology and value-based purchasing initiatives to improve patient safety and quality of care. **HLC supports legislation that encourages adoption of national standards that will move toward true interoperability of the electronic health record and help finance technology for those providers who need assistance.**

#### **Confidentiality of Patient Medical Records:**

Doctors, hospitals, pharmacists, health plans and other providers strongly support the privacy of patient's medical information. At the same time, high quality patient care depends on the flow of information. With the modifications made to the HIPAA Privacy Regulation in August 2002, these goals have been largely met. **HLC applauds Congress for implementing patient privacy standards and requests that Congress ensure no duplication occurs when addressing other privacy legislation which could impede patient care or the discovery of cures or treatments.** Also, Congress should consider federal preemption in order to reduce costly and burdensome dual compliance requirements with state and federal laws and remove barriers to the implementation of multi-state health information networks.

#### **Medicare Modernization:**

HLC actively supports legislation that moves Medicare closer to becoming a health care delivery model that can increase health care quality while controlling long-term costs. The Medicare prescription drug benefit represents one step in this direction. In 2003, HLC launched the *Medicare Today* initiative to ensure that beneficiaries and their families understood the new benefits and helped people take advantage of the options available to them. HLC continues, in particular, to highlight the preventive benefits and the subsidy for low-income beneficiaries. **The Medicare program needs to be modernized in order to encourage care coordination, access to the latest treatments and technology, based on individual preferences and evidence-based medicine. Adequate provider payments are critical and should be carefully considered, especially under the pressure of a "pay go" environment.**

#### **Chronic Care Management and Wellness:**

Estimates suggest that health care spending on chronic disease accounts for up to 75 percent of health spending. The private sector and some state Medicaid programs are embracing chronic care management and wellness. **Congress should support efforts to reward wellness and chronic care management instead of focusing on paying for volume and sick care.**

#### **Shortage of Qualified Medical Personnel:**

Shortages of qualified nurses, pharmacists, and other medical personnel are severely impacting hospitals, pharmacies and other health care providers. Congress must work with health care providers to address this nationwide shortage globally so that patient care is not adversely impacted. **Congress must recognize that other issues, like improved information technology and reduction of burdensome regulations are inextricably linked to solving the workforce shortage problem. We urge members of Congress to join the STEM Education Caucus which supports science and math education efforts.**

#### **Medical Liability Reform:**

One of the founding principles of HLC is that patients should have access to high quality health care. Skyrocketing liability costs for the health care system are threatening that. Patients are increasingly paying for excessive litigation by losing access to physicians, hospitals, trauma centers, and other facilities as a result of the crisis. Litigation also threatens the development of new drug therapies and medical technologies. **Congress should work to find a bipartisan solution, as the problem negatively impacts patients' access to care.**