

Barack Obama

August 12, 2008

Jennifer Schneider
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Dear Jennifer,

Thank you for taking the time to contact me. Your priorities, experiences and perspectives are important to me, and I appreciate your taking the time to advise me of healthcare issues

Your comments go to the heart of why I am running for president. At the core, the 2008 general election is about national priorities and national values. This election is a referendum on who the American people are most confident can chart a new course and draw the nation together in pursuit of its common purpose.

My vision for America invests in education, job creation and the environment; seeks to break the hold that oil companies and foreign producers have on our economy through conservation and the development of renewable energy sources; acknowledges the importance of fundamental civil liberties to our society; preserves the integrity of pensions, Social Security and Medicare; breaks through partisan deadlock; improves the quality of life for all Americans; unleashes American ingenuity to build a 21st century economy; brings back fiscal responsibility; restores America's reputation and leadership in the world; and defeats the forces of terror.

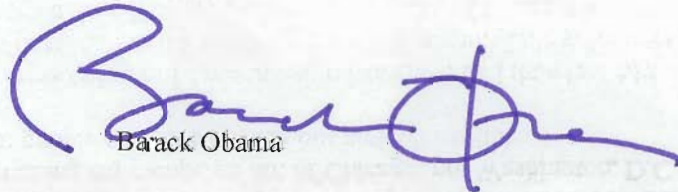
Some pundits, and my opponent, like to suggest that the length of my service in the United States Senate is a liability for my campaign. But I can assure you that two and a half years is long enough to know that things in Washington must change. That is why I am running my campaign out of Chicago, not Washington, D.C., and concentrating on meeting with and listening to people who live outside our nation's capital.

I have been gratified by the amount of grassroots interest my campaign has generated thus far. My campaign headquarters is receiving thousands of messages a week from people like you. This volume of mail reflects the importance individual citizens place on this election. Although I am unable to address each of the concerns raised in these communications individually, you can be assured that collectively they are helping shape my vision of where our country should go.

I have enclosed some additional information for you to consider.

Again, Jennifer, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama

Enclosure: Healthcare Fact Sheet



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BARACK OBAMA ON HEALTHCARE

BARACK OBAMA HAS A PLAN FOR HEALTHY AMERICA

The Problem

Nearly 45 million Americans lack health insurance. Health insurance premiums have risen four times faster than wages over the past six years. About 100,000 Americans die from medical errors in hospitals every year. The nation faces epidemics of obesity and chronic diseases as well as new threats of pandemic flu and bioterrorism.

Obama's plan will provide affordable, comprehensive and portable health coverage for all Americans by

- Making available a new public health plan that will allow individuals and small businesses to buy affordable health care similar to that available to members of Congress. No one will be turned away or charged more due to illness, and everyone who needs it will receive a subsidy for their premium
- Making available a National Health Insurance Exchange to help individuals purchase private coverage and to reform the private insurance market. Any American could enroll in participating private plans, which would have to provide comprehensive benefits, issue every applicant a policy, and charge fair and stable premiums.
- Immediately ensuring that all of the 9 million currently uninsured children have affordable, high-quality health coverage.
- Expanding Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program and ensuring they continue to serve their critical safety net function.
- Requiring employers to make a meaningful contribution to the health coverage of their employees.

Obama's plan will reduce costs and save a typical American family up to \$2,500 each year:

- Driving adoption of state-of-the-art health information technology systems.
- Improving access to preventive care and chronic disease management programs.
- Requiring hospitals to collect and report health care cost and quality data.
- Reforming our market structure to increase competition in the insurance and drug markets
- Lowering drug costs by allowing importation of safe medicines from other developed countries and increasing use of generics in public programs.



TELL BARACK YOUR STORY

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