



United States of Care (USofCare) is a non-partisan health care advocacy organization working to drive change at the state and federal level in partnership with everyday people, business leaders, health care innovators, advocates, and policymakers to advocate for durable, people-centered policy solutions. Our work is grounded in findings from over 3 years of listening to people across the country discuss their health care access. From this we have identified targeted, common-sense solutions to the most pressing challenges people face with the health care system.



92%

of people believe **everyone** deserves to have access to **quality affordable health care**

United States of Care: 2023 Federal Priorities

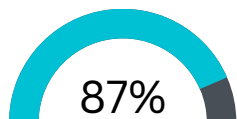
USofCare seeks federal progress on health policy through legislation and regulation that focuses on key issues such as **expanding health coverage and affordability, reducing the overall cost of health care, eliminating health inequities in the system, and promoting innovative payment and delivery system reform.**

“ I want everyone to just have standard basic care that is affordable, so people can just go get primary care at the doctor or at the hospital or whatever... I think just setting standards for health insurance plans to make sure everyone can have access to those plans.

- Focus group participant with insurance they are satisfied with, New York

Reducing the High Cost of Health Care: The cost of accessing care is people’s foremost concern about the health care system, which resonates across partisan divides and demographics. High cost of care is often a factor that leads people to skip seeking routine care.

- ★ **Eliminating hospital facility fees** resulting from provider consolidation and anti-competitive behavior, and implementing site-neutral payment reforms to reduce unexpected health care costs that do not improve patients’ quality of care.
- ★ **Eliminating out-of-pocket costs** for basic health care services, like mental health and primary care visits.
- ★ **Standardizing and improving hospital price transparency data** and enforcing 2021 CMS rules to make the costs of hospital-based care more consumer-friendly, transparent, and understandable.
- ★ **Making prescription costs more transparent** by creating clarity about how prices are set and supporting enforcement and implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act.
- ★ **Increasing competition among drugmakers** to make it easier and faster to get generics to the market.



Eliminating out-of-pocket costs for basic health care services: 87% support

Require insurance companies to cover basic types of care, like mental health and primary care visits, with no out-of-pocket costs to the patient. These steps would help ensure people get the primary and behavioral health care they need.

87% of support overall. Includes the support of 91% of people of color, 84% of rural residents, and 86% of lower income participants. Support by 94% of Democrats, 82% of Independents, and 81% of Republicans.

“ I think it's all about choice. If you could see someone via tele-medicine vs. going into their doctor's office, that's fantastic. If you have more doctors to choose from, more doctors to go through, choice gives you the ability to really control ... your life better.

- Focus group participant with insurance they're satisfied with, Florida

Improving Health Care Delivery in Medically Underserved Communities to Reduce Health Disparities: People generally value having choices within the health care system — but, at the same time, they find it difficult to get personalized care that meets their needs and treats them as a whole person. People in medically underserved communities often have unique difficulties accessing quality and affordable health care.

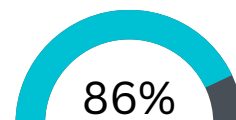
- ★ **Encouraging accountable-based care models** that leads providers to deliver coordinated, high-quality care for patients of diverse backgrounds.
- ★ **Protect the ability of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation** to establish innovative models that lead to high-quality patient outcomes.
- ★ **Enforcing compliance of parity in coverage** of mental and physical health and expanding access to mental health care.
- ★ **Making it more convenient to get care** by expanding the ability to get physical and mental health care where it's most convenient, like at workplaces, local schools, or clinics.
- ★ **Providing better maternal and newborn care** by expanding in-home visits by nurses who can connect families with additional postpartum support and increasing insurance coverage for the different ways people want to give birth — like doula services, birthing centers, and home births.
- ★ **Supporting caregivers with sick loved ones at home** by making it easier for people to continue to live independently while receiving care rather than moving into long-term care facilities.
- ★ **Ensuring culturally responsive care** in provider training and insurance coverage by identifying policy solutions that overcome obstacles to delivering culturally responsive care to patients.

Innovation in the Small and Individual Insurance Markets for More Affordable, Comprehensive Coverage Options: Too many people in the U.S. cannot count on their health insurance coverage and are concerned that major life changes could cause them to lose coverage for themselves or their families.

- ★ **Expanding low-cost coverage options that increase competition** including allowing individuals and small businesses to access high-quality, dependable, more affordable, and government-regulated options for health insurance through innovation waivers and enhanced advance premium tax credits.
- ★ **Allowing people to use tax credits to get coverage** outside of their employer.
- ★ **Permanently reauthorizing the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)** to eliminate coverage gaps and reduce health care disparities for children.
- ★ **Expanding eligibility for public programs and reducing coverage gaps** so that more people qualify for coverage through Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP.

Continued Access to Virtual Care and Telehealth: Virtual care can help address health care barriers in rural health care access, transportation challenges and provider shortages. Virtual care can remove barriers to access for those who faced accessibility challenges before the pandemic, while also making health care more convenient for everyone.

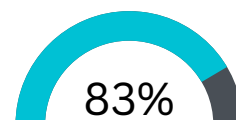
- ★ **Ensuring equitable access to virtual care** by requiring insurance companies to cover appointments that happen by computer or phone.
- ★ **Permanently removing geographic barriers** on distant sites and originating sites.
- ★ **Expanding broadband access** in rural and medically underserved communities.



Providing new, low-cost coverage options that also increase competition: 86% support

Allowing individuals and small businesses to access high-quality, dependable, and more affordable coverage, such as through public health insurance options, can help to increase competition and make coverage more accessible to all.

86% support overall. Includes the support of 82% of people of color. Supported by 84% of Democrats, 65% of Independents, and 60% of Republicans.



Make it more convenient to get care: 83% support

83% support overall. Includes the support of 87% of people of color, 75% of rural residents, and 81% of lower income participants. Supported by 91% of Democrats, 71% of Independents, and 79% of Republicans.

To learn more about our 12 Solutions and the United Solutions for Care visit: <https://unitedstatesofcare.org/united-solutions-for-care/>. For more information about our federal priorities, please reach out to Lezah Calvin, Senior Manager of Federal Affairs at lcalvin@usofcare.org.