



Create affordable health care options and access to quality care

Position Statement:

SDPHA endorses an increase to affordable health care options and access to quality care for all individuals.

Overview:

Poorly coordinated care and inefficient use of resources continue to undermine care and drive up costs in many state health care systems. The cost of financing necessary expansion in public programs will place added liability on taxpayers (Health Reform, 2009). Similarly, the rising uncompensated cost of caring for the uninsured through safety net programs will add to this burden. Affordable health care options and access to quality care is a step in the right direction to enhance Americans' health. The United States must establish health as the default outcome, rather than obesity and chronic illness (Holahan, et al). It is imperative we begin now; by creating a shared vision and taking steps to generate a U.S. that is the healthiest nation in a healthier world.

SDPHA recommends:

- Development and widespread adoption of health care quality and efficiency measures. Comprehensive sets of quality measures are needed to reflect the full continuum of health care.
- Assessment and enhancement of the capacity of health care organizations to provide better care more efficiently by rewarding providers for quality and outcomes rather than volume. Payment systems should reward excellence and improve patient safety. Payment reform that rewards clinicians for spending adequate time with patients and encourages a greater focus on prevention, primary care, and wellness will improve health outcomes and lower costs.
- Emphasis on prevention and early intervention of and care coordination for chronic conditions. Health plans lower costs with chronic condition management through health education programs by expanding health plan and employer incentives for enrollees to live healthier lives, and by increasing provider education and screening of patients.
- Establishing "health in all policies" by evaluating and addressing the health impact of all policies across all governmental agencies and sectors of the economy.

HealthReform.gov. (n.d.) Health Insurance Reform and South Dakota: The Case for Change. Retrieved December 15, 2009 from <http://www.healthreform.gov/reports/statehealthreform/southdakota.html>.

Holahan, John, Garrett, Bowman, Headen, Irene, & Lucas, Aaron. (May 2009). Health Reform: The Cost of Failure. Retrieved December 15, 2009, from <http://www.rwif.org/files/research/costoffailure20090529.pdf>.

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