

A Robust and Transparent Health Reform Debate

Congress and the White House have used a thorough and transparent process throughout the debate on health care reform legislation. The following is a look at the steps we have taken to ensure an open, robust debate:

- The White House kicked off the process by inviting more than **260** people – including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, hospital officials, medical device makers, pharmaceutical company executives, farmers, ranchers, insurers, business trade associations, small business employers and employees, and others – to the White House for roundtable discussions that were moderated by senior White House officials, open to the press, and watched by thousands of Americans.
- **11** Health Care Stakeholder Discussions have been open to the press. **10** were web-streamed live on whitehouse.gov and **9** can currently be viewed in full online. Some of these meetings were also streamed through a unique Facebook application allowing citizens to discuss – and even engage in – them.
- The Senate Finance Committee had more than **53** meetings on health insurance reform legislation. They posted the legislation online for **6** days before the markup, then spent **8** days marking up the legislation – the longest markup in **22** years – during which they considered **135** amendments.
- The Senate HELP Committee held more than **47** bipartisan hearings, roundtables, and walkthroughs on health insurance reform. They also posted their legislation online for **6** days before considering **300** amendments during a **13** day markup.
- The Senate spent **25** consecutive days in session on health reform, the second longest consecutive session in history. In total, the Senate has spent more than **160** hours considering the health reform legislation
- The final Senate bill includes **147** Republican amendments
- In the House, **79** hearings and markups have been held over the past **2** years.
- House members spent nearly **100** hours in hearings, heard from **181** witnesses from both sides of the aisle, considered **239** amendments (both Democratic and Republican), and accepted **121** amendments.
- The original House bill was posted online for **30** days before the first Committee began marking it up and more than **100** days before the merged version was

introduced. The text of the final House bill has been available online for nearly **2** months.

- House Democrats have heard and answered questions from constituents at more than **3,000** health care town halls and public events in their districts, and **tens of thousands** of e-mails, calls, and letters have been logged in Congressional offices to also register public comment.