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## Benefits of Health Care Reform in Walnut

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Democratic Staff

On September 24, 2012, Rep. Henry A. Waxman released a report on the benefits the Affordable Care Act is providing throughout Los Angeles County. This appendix summarizes the benefits of this historic legislation in Walnut.

In Walnut, the benefits of health reform are significant:

- **23,000** residents of Walnut with private insurance will receive an easy-to-understand summary of their health benefits and coverage, including a standardized “coverage examples” section that uses a format modeled on the nutrition facts label for food.
- **700 young adults** in Walnut who would otherwise be uninsured now have health insurance through their parents’ health care plans.
- **4,400 seniors** in Walnut received Medicare preventive services without paying any co-pays, coinsurance, or deductibles in 2011, and 2,900 seniors have received these free services so far in 2012.
- **340 seniors** in Walnut received new Medicare Part D prescription drug discounts worth \$180,000 in 2011, an average discount of up to \$520 per senior. So far in 2012, more than 130 seniors have received prescription drug discounts.
- **5,800 women** in Walnut can now receive preventive benefits such as well-woman visits, FDA-approved contraception, and gestational diabetes screenings at no charge.
- **1,500 children** in Walnut with preexisting health conditions can no longer be denied insurance coverage.
- **13,000** residents of Walnut are protected from excessive rate increases by new limits on the amount of money that health insurers can spend on administrative expenses and profits and the requirement that health insurers justify rate increases of 10% or more.
- **16,000** residents of Walnut no longer have lifetime limits on their insurance coverage.
- **100 small businesses** in Walnut have received tax credits to help maintain or expand health care coverage for their 600 employees.

In addition, when the law goes fully into effect in 2014, insurers will be prohibited from discriminating against the 5,400 Walnut residents under 65 with a pre-existing health condition; 23,000 Walnut residents with private insurance coverage will no longer face annual limits on coverage, and 3,300 Walnut residents who now lack health insurance will have access to coverage for the first time. Every resident who purchases their health insurance on the private market will be able to shop for health insurance in transparent and competitive marketplaces called exchanges, where insurers will be required to publish the prices and benefits of their policies in simple, plain language.