

# **The Republican Main Street Partnership:** **“Principles for Healthcare Reform”**

## **OVER-ARCHING GOAL OF HEALTHCARE REFORM:**

Make Quality, Affordable Healthcare Available for All Americans

## **SUMMARY**

As the largest organization of elected centrists in the country, Main Street understands the importance of working together to find bipartisan solutions to the challenges facing our country. Few issues are as important, or as personal, to Americans as healthcare, which makes the need for a real commitment to bipartisanship even more important.

We believe we can make quality, affordable healthcare available for all Americans, and that we can do so without burdening our children and grandchildren with mountains of debt. To do so, however, we need our Congressional leaders to abandon efforts to push controversial and ineffective proposals like the so-called “public option,” and instead focus on common-sense bipartisan solutions that will expand access, lower costs and improve the quality of care.

Main Street has laid out 10 “Principles for Healthcare Reform.” While this list is not exhaustive, we believe it provides a solid framework around which we can forge a meaningful healthcare reform compromise.

## **PROPOSED PRINCIPLES FOR REFORM:**

- 1) Preserve, protect and strengthen the private system of healthcare and the private system of health insurance. To do so, we must oppose any proposal that provides for a “government option.”
- 2) Shift our emphasis from the current “treatment paradigm” to one that focuses on the prevention of illness and disease.
- 3) Work to lower healthcare costs across the system. We should make lowering the cost of healthcare a priority.
- 4) Eliminate fraud and waste in both the public and private healthcare systems. Fraud in the Medicare and Medicaid systems alone costs taxpayers billions of dollars each year.
- 5) Enact meaningful tort reform that protects patients but at the same time ends the abuse of frivolous lawsuits brought by unscrupulous trial lawyers. The current system fails both patients and providers.

- 6) Harness 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies and innovation. Health information technology, for example, can save money and save lives.
- 7) Encourage cutting edge research and the development of new life-saving and life-extending treatments by updating the research and development tax credit and making it permanent.
- 8) Empower individuals to have more control over their healthcare decisions.
- 9) Encourage competition across the healthcare system to help lower costs and improve quality of care.
- 10) Prioritize federal healthcare dollars – eliminate wasteful, inefficient or unrelated spending in Healthcare Appropriations bills.