



COMMUNITY CATALYST

*Building Consumer and Community  
Participation in the Shaping of Our Health System*

Dear Partners,

Since we like sports analogies at Community Catalyst, we will borrow one from this week's [Insider](#): "We're just a few yards from the goal line, but it's late in the fourth quarter. We just used our last time out and the game clock is ticking. Let's carry it across."

We are at the most critical point in this year-long effort to pass health care reform. **Together, we have to make a strong all-out push over the next few weeks.**

Many of you were at the Families USA conference in Washington, D.C. last week; people left feeling reinvigorated and ready to take action.

This is because we heard and continue to hear from inside the administration and congressional leadership that they are still committed to comprehensive reform. Not surprisingly, the White House has to pivot to focus on jobs – with unemployment hovering at 10 percent. This does not mean the end of health care reform. In fact, we've heard from some on the Hill that this may help Congress move forward by reducing the singular focus on the health care reform legislative process.

**What we need to do is continue to engage our partners and talk to Members of Congress and the public about the need for comprehensive health care reform. We need to do this now, during February recess and for the next several weeks.**

We know that many of you are concerned about the legislative pathway to pass this bill. The best pathway for reform right now is to pass the [Senate-approved bill](#) in the House alongside a reconciliation bill containing key amendments that are agreed on by the two chambers. There are signs that both the House and Senate leadership are pursuing this path. However, there are a lot of variations on the theme of this "two-step" track. While it is important that you understand the path forward, this is not something we suggest you highlight when talking to your partners, Members of Congress or the public. Right now **it is not our job to figure out the process details**; it is the job of congressional leadership. (See this week's [Insider](#) for a more detailed discussion.)

Our job is threefold: 1) to make sure our partners and allies know that there is still a commitment to pass reform, 2) to let Members know that their constituents want them – and even expect them – to move forward with comprehensive reform, and 3) to educate the public about the positive benefits of reform.

## State Activities and Resources

The new materials in today's alert focus on your public messages.

- **Educate and Re-energize the Public and Your Partners**  
We know that supporters of reform are tired and frustrated, but we need their energy for this final push. Our materials, including this [new presentation](#) and [talking points](#), are designed to keep up the positive energy. We will be pushing these out at every possible opportunity, through [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [our blog](#), and our email lists. We invite you to do the same.
- **Personal Stories**  
[Use the stories you've collected](#) to demonstrate why we cannot wait for real reform. This should be a part of every conversation you have – whether it's with the public, the media or Members of Congress.

In addition, Community Catalyst will send out a series of alerts like this one over the next week. These will include resources and materials to support the following suggested strategies:

- **Conversations with Members**  
We need to reach out to all House Democrats, with a particular focus on progressives and Blue Dogs, as well as to moderate Senators. Meetings can be done in person or over the phone, and we suggest you bring together key stakeholders to have a conversation directly with your elected official.
- **Letters to the Editor and Op/Eds**  
Place LTEs and Op/Eds in community papers of targeted Members to demonstrate support for reform and to let people know how reform will help them. We are putting a premium on this work right now, since local papers are likely to place your letters, and we know Members of Congress and the public read them. We will be sending sample letters in the next few days.
- **February Recess Activities and Meetings**  
February recess presents a crucial opportunity to engage Members of Congress. Activities can be small or large. An upcoming new guide will outline some suggestions.

We are almost there. Now is the time for us to double our efforts. We hope this helps to give you ideas and strategies for the next few weeks. Please be on the lookout for additional materials and resources.

**Together, we will make this happen.**

Thank you for your continued advocacy,

Community Catalyst National Health Reform Team