

Perspectives on the 2008 Elections and Health Care Reform

Linda Tarplin, Tarplin, Downs & Young, LLC
External Operations Conference
June, 12, 2008

Health Care Reform:

- The Public
- The Candidates
- The Congress

The Public

- ▶ Health Care is a Voter Priority
- ▶ – Concern over the economy increasing
- ▶ – Republican/Democrat voters continue to have different HC priorities
- ▶ – Overall, concern about the economy drives focus on cost containment

The Public

- ▶ Voter's Views on Direction of "Reform"
- ▶ – Majority of Americans believe reform should focus on providing coverage
- ▶ – Partisan breakdown
 - – D voters (70%) on expanding coverage
 - – R voters (61%) on making insurance more affordable and available in private marketplace.

The Candidates

- ▶ McCain:
 - ▶ – Shift to an Individual–Based System
 - – eliminate the current tax exclusion for ESC
 - – provide a tax credit to purchase coverage
 - – increase affordable insurance options
 - ▶ – Guaranteed Access Plans (GAP)
 - ▶ – Other: HIT, Malpractice Reform, P4P, Prevention, Curb Entitlement Costs, Promote use of Generics.

The Candidates

- ▶ Obama:
 - ▶ – National Health Insurance Exchange
 - – Will include a “National Health Plan” option
 - – Insurance Reforms – GI and CR
 - ▶ – Employer play-or-pay
 - ▶ – Mandate all children have coverage
 - ▶ – Expand Medicaid and SCHIP
 - ▶ – Other: HIT, Prevention, CER, P4P, Promote use of Generics, Direct Government Negotiation.

The Congress

- ▶ Election – House of Representatives
 - ▶ – 435 up for reelection
 - ▶ – Currently 235 Ds; 199 Rs; 1 vacancy
 - ▶ – Likely – at least a 15 to 20 seat loss for Rs
- ▶ Election – United States Senate
 - ▶ – 35 up for reelection
 - ▶ – Currently 51 Ds (2-Is); 49 Rs
 - ▶ – Likely – Rs retain 41 plus

The Congress

- ▶ The 111th Congress and Health Care Reform
- ▶ – Debate being framed in 2008
- ▶ – Influence of the White House on HCR
 - – Obama
 - – McCain
- ▶ – Obstacles to major reform
 - – Public anxiety
 - – Lack of true consensus
 - – Costs in a “pay-go” environment

The Congress

- ▶ Continued:
- ▶ The 111th Congress and Health Care Reform
- ▶ – Incremental reform
 - – SCHIP reauthorization
 - – Small business coverage
 - – Medicare buy-in
 - – Insurance market reforms
 - – Entitlement reform
 - – Cost Containment

Conclusion