



Los Angeles Area  
Chamber of Commerce

## 2008 Health Care Advocacy Agenda

### Reform Statewide Health Care

All stakeholders in the health care system including government, health plans, pharmaceutical companies, individuals, health care organizations, providers, employees and employers must contribute their fair share of the financing needed to provide coverage to all Californians. Comprehensive reform must preserve what works in the current system while eliminating its very serious shortcomings.

### Establish a New Governance Structure for L.A. County Health

The Chamber supports the creation of a new, independent governance structure, managed and run by health care professionals, to administer the county's health care operations. The Board of Supervisors lacks the experience and accountability to manage the complex health system. An independent governance structure is essential to streamlining the decision-making process, improving our trauma and emergency room network, preparing L.A. for major catastrophes, and moving the county health system forward.

### Increase Nursing and Other Health Professional Workforce Opportunities

Estimates are that L.A., Orange and Ventura Counties will need 116,000 new nurses by 2030. The committee will work with public and private stakeholders to increase the number of health professional career opportunities for young people and create incentives for those professionals to remain in Southern California.

### Expand the Number of Local Clinics and Community Care Centers

Community-based clinics help reduce the burden on large hospitals by providing basic care, immunizations and routine diagnosis. In the past 10 years, two-thirds of these clinics have closed in L.A. County due to lack of funding. The Chamber supports reopening community clinics through public and private financing to help provide primary care and reduce overcrowding at local hospitals.

### Foster Collaboration

Problems facing our region's health care system require collaboration between providers, insurers, educators, non-profit organizations, business, government, labor and consumers. Without an open dialogue and willingness to confront these important issues, the crisis will worsen. The committee will partner with organizations dedicated to improving the quality of health care. By working together to find common ground, we can make the L.A. area a better place for all of us to live and work.

### Maximize Enrollment in Children's Health Insurance Programs

Two-thirds of California's uninsured children qualify for existing government insurance programs, but are not enrolled due to lengthy applications, confusing eligibility guidelines and a basic lack of information. The Chamber supports maximizing enrollment in the Healthy Kids programs and covering every child in the state with basic health insurance.

### Promote Healthier Living

The economic burden of physical inactivity and obesity costs the state more than \$30 billion per year in medical care, lost productivity, workers' compensation and mental health problems. Programs and policies that encourage healthier lifestyles for L.A. area residents are needed, including expanding physical education and offering healthy food choices for children and providing incentives for exercise and nutrition.