



American Heart Association Principles on Health Care Reform

The American Heart Association has a longstanding commitment to approaching health care reform from the patient's perspective and has updated our statement of the principles that must be addressed if health care in the United States is to be accessible, affordable, and adequate for all. These principles focus on expanding access to affordable health care and coverage; enhancing the availability of evidence-based preventive services; eliminating disparities that limit the availability and equitable delivery of health care; strengthening the public health infrastructure to respond to social determinants of health; prioritizing and accelerating investments in biomedical research; and growing a diverse, culturally competent health and health care workforce prepared to meet the challenges of delivering high-value health care.

Principle 1:

All people living in the United States, regardless of health condition, should have comprehensive, understandable, and affordable health care coverage.

Principle 2:

All people living in the United States should receive quality, affordable patient-centered health care.

Principle 3:

All people living in the United States should have guaranteed access to preventive services without or with minimal cost-sharing, regardless of how they gain coverage.

Principle 4:

Race, gender, and geographic disparities in health and health care must be eliminated.

Principle 5:

Public health infrastructure should be strengthened to effectively engage diverse stakeholders in multiple sectors, adequately respond to social determinants of health, and support the elimination of systemic inequities in health and health care.

Principle 6:

The United States' health care workforce should continue to grow and diversify through a sustained national commitment to culturally competent public health and medical education and clinical training.

Principle 7:

Support of biomedical and health services research should be a national priority, and inflation-adjusted funding for the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other agencies must be maintained and expanded.

