

Trinity Health Invites All to Join Push for Health Care Reform

We are at a crossroads in the health care reform debate. We can solve this problem – one manageable step at a time - but we need your help. We are encouraging people to speak up for health care reform. Working with our parent organization, Trinity Health, on the *Find a Way* campaign, we have been engaging associates, community leaders, and elected leaders on this issue of health reform. Central to this effort are nine “Essential Elements of Reform” that, if achieved, can help reshape our nation’s health care system.

Because our nation has never built a health coverage infrastructure, we are paying the price now. “In the United States we have built a series of modern networks that are essential to our economy and our quality of life – our water systems, power grid, interstate highways, and the Internet. But, with health coverage we have the equivalent of scattered wells, individual generators, county roads and stand-alone computers but no health infrastructure we can rely on,” Joe Swedish, Trinity Health’s CEO.

This challenge affects us all. Think of the health care system like a building held up by columns or pillars. Each of those pillars is crucial in holding up the structure. However, when it comes to our health care system, we have taken many of the supporting pillars away by shutting people out of the coverage system. When people are dropped from the system, the burden of holding up the structure falls on fewer and fewer of us. We can get in front of this problem and create a structure that is solid and secure, meeting everyone’s need for health care.

We all need to be a part of the solution. When everyone purchases health insurance, takes responsibility for maintaining their personal health, and is empowered with tools to assist in health care decision-making, our structure gets stronger. In addition, reform needs to include better incentives for primary care, coordination of care, chronic disease management, evidenced-based care, and reductions in unwarranted clinical variation. Revamping these incentives can drive fundamental, cost-reducing changes in way we deliver health care.

Now more than ever, it is important that those who believe our system needs reform speak up. If we embrace our responsibility to our country and its citizens, we can solve this challenge. “With adequate prompting, our nation’s leaders will find a uniquely American solution to health care reform,” says Mr. Swedish. To learn more about Trinity Health’s Essential Elements of Reform or how you can participate in this important effort, go to www.trinity-health.org and click on the health care reform link.