

Health System Problems, Solutions, and Pathways

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Overview

- Inter-related problems of our health care system
- Why incremental reforms won't work
- Solutions that will work
- How we can get there

Interrelated Problems

- Low Value for Dollar
- Uneven quality
- Inequitable access to care

Result of our incremental approaches

- *An increasing fraction of our workforce cannot afford health insurance as we know it*

Why Incremental Reforms Don't Work

- No sense of urgency
 - We continue to accept the unacceptable
- Incentives are mostly unchanged and perverse
- Excessive individualism and prisoner's dilemma

What We Will Need

- Information infrastructure to support quality improvement
- Value-enhancing incentives in place for all providers, patients, and payers
- Countervailing power between medical technology industry and coverage decisions
- Subsidies for the low income population to purchase health insurance

What Will Work

- Mandatory health insurance
 - Individual mandate
 - Employer and social responsibility
- Evidence-based limits on collectively financed benefits
- Preservation of liberty and choice

Pathways to Get There

- We have to articulate the moral imperative
 - “Feed the Hungry”
- We have to explain the economic necessity
 - Employers should help
- We have to devise and articulate a fiscally credible solution
 - Provider buy-in to a culture of efficiency
 - New revenues must still be dedicated

Coalitions of the Willing

- Those who care about their fellow citizens
- Employers who shrink from the future they see
- Governors and state legislators who shrink from the futures they see
- Providers who want to lead
- Workers who know access has cost and value
- Politicians who want to lead