



Making Health Care Reform in Alaska a

Reality
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Discussion

- > Challenges States Face in Tackling Health Reform
- > Assuring Success in State Advocacy
- > Examples of Other State Health Reform Efforts
- > Alaska's Unique Health Care Environment
- > Tasting Victory in Alaska
- > Achieving Success is a Shared Responsibility

The Challenges States Face in Tackling HCR

- > Uncertain state capacity
- > Role of employers
- > Consumer preferences/ Political support
- > Intersection of federal laws and funding
- > Fiscal package often neither adequate nor secure

Assuring Success in State Advocacy

- > Committed political leadership is essential
- > Bi-partisan collaboration increases likelihood of enactment
- > Policy perfection can be the enemy of progress
- > Don't forget to manage the legislative clock and votes
- > Consider comprehensive vision with sequenced implementation
- > Comprehensive state HCR unlikely absent stable and sustained funding

Examples of Other State Health Reform Efforts

- > California – AB 8 – Health Care Coverage Proposal (2006)
- > Iowa – HB 2539 – Health Care Reform Act (2008)
- > Massachusetts – HB 4850 – Health Care Access and Affordability Act (2005)
- > Oregon – SB 329 – Healthy Oregon Act (2007)
- > Vermont- Health Care Reform Acts 190, 191, 215, 142, 153 (2006)

California

- > Context for comprehensive and bi-partisan reform
- > Expand coverage (cover 70% uninsured)
 - Business mandate (7.5% payroll)
 - Create statewide purchasing pool
 - Expand public programs -- cover all kids
 - Subsidize coverage for low-income adults
 - Individual mandate
 - Modify insurance market
- > Cost containment
- > Prevention / wellness promotion
- > Shared responsibility / create culture of coverage
- > Reasons why effort failed

Iowa

- > Context for bi-partisan reform
- > Expand coverage for children (< 300% FPL) and roadmap to full coverage by 2010
- > Expand access -- develop and implement statewide patient-centered medical home network through primary care providers
- > Enhance disease prevention, chronic care management, and wellness initiatives
- > Quality improvement council -- develop public reporting of health care quality and cost measures
- > **Expand HIT** -- electronic health record keeping and sharing
- > Pilot premium assistance program for direct care workers

Massachusetts

- > Context for reform
- > Individual mandate to purchase health coverage
- > Subsidies for low-income residents (<300% FPL)
- > Public program expansions (adults <100% FPL, children <300% FPL)
- > Health Insurance Connector Authority
- > Employer requirements
 - Provide ESI or \$295 / employee fee
 - Offer Section 125 plan
- > Ongoing cost and affordability challenges

Oregon

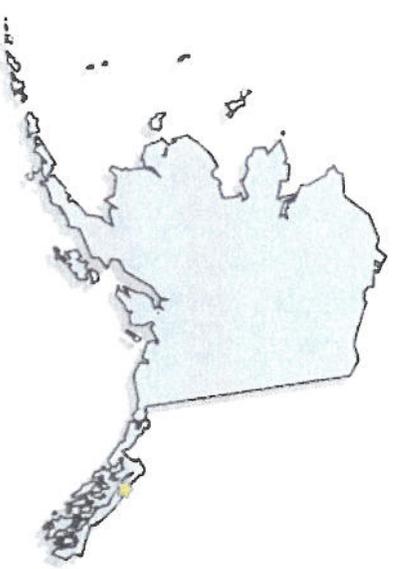
- > Context for reform
- > Healthy Oregon Act - 2007
 - Creates the Oregon Health Trust (public board) to develop a plan to ensure all have access to treatment for defined set of conditions; and to gather public input on key reform concepts
 - Establishes Oregon Better Health Fund – assess value of all HCR funds and determine structure of pool risks/ rates
 - Focus on preventive and primary care and quality improvements
 - Increase value for a healthy and financially secure Oregon

Vermont

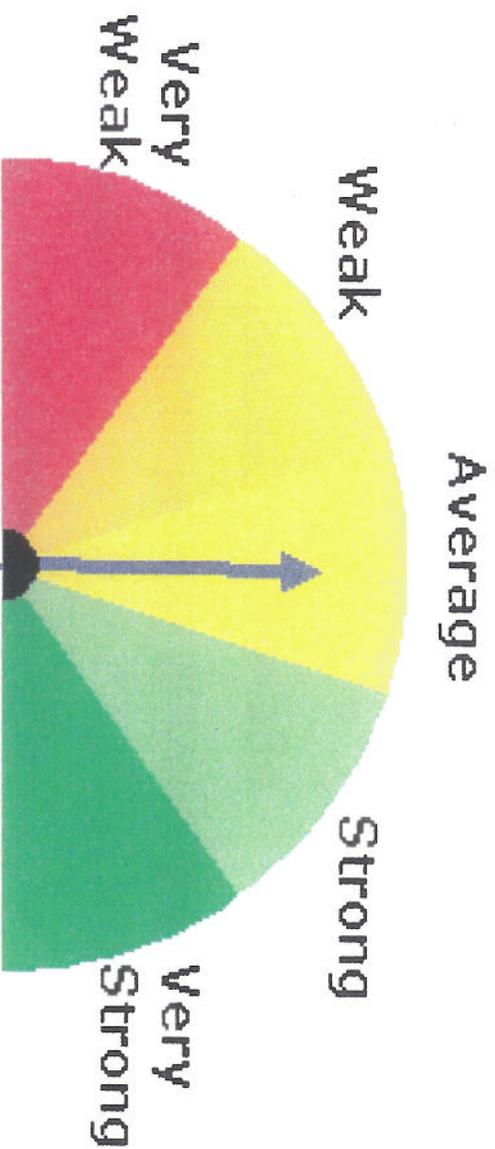
- > Built on solid foundation of broad Medicaid, employer coverage and insurance regulation (guaranteed issue, rate limits, etc.)
- > Catamount Health
- > Employer requirements
- > Blueprint for Health
- > VT Information Technology Leaders

Alaska's Unique

- > Chronic health professional shortages
- > Unique geography
- > Significant role of Indian Health Service & Military
- > Health system performing on average



Alaska's Rating for Overall Health Care Quality Compared to All States



Performance Meter: All Measures

The meters above and below are summaries of measures reported in the National Healthcare Quality Report (NHQR) for Alaska. The above meter is a summary of over 100 measures in the NHQR reported at the State level, including type of care, settings of care, and care by clinical area.

Source: The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Tasting Victory in Alaska

- > Successful state reforms address key and widely recognized health system problems.
- > State health care reform is a continuing commitment and is built on previous efforts.
- > All state health care reform requires additional state funding, at least initially.
- > Low-income subsidies need to be carefully designed to ensure affordability and sustainability.
- > Hard to address rising health system costs without simultaneously addressing coverage.
- > Advocates of health reform must dialogue with all stakeholders and have a process for doing so.

Shared Responsibility

Create a “**culture of coverage**” and
“**shared responsibility**” within the state

Individuals, businesses (small and large),
and government understand importance
of health care. When better health care options
are available, more citizens are willing to work for
Alaska businesses and invest in the
future of its economy.