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 believes there are six critical principles that must be addressed if health care in the United States is to be effective, equitable and excellent. These principles concentrate on access to care, preventive services, quality health care, the elimination of health disparities, continued biomedical research to improve the prevention and treatment of heart disease and stroke and an adequate and diverse workforce.

**Principle 1:**
All residents of the United States should have meaningful, affordable health care coverage.

**Principle 2:**
Preventive benefits should be an essential component of meaningful health care coverage, and incentives should be built into the health care system to promote appropriate preventive health strategies.

**Principle 3:**
All residents of the United States should receive affordable, high quality health care.

**Principle 4:**
Race, gender and geographic disparities in health care must be eliminated.

**Principle 5:**
Support of biomedical and health services research should be a national priority, and inflation-adjusted funding for the NIH must be maintained and expanded.

**Principle 6:**
The United States’ health care workforce should continue to grow and diversify through a sustained and substantial national commitment to medical education and clinical training.