



## State of the Nation's Health Care 2012

### Get to Know Your Republican Candidates *Important Questions to Help Evaluate their Health Care Positions*

Answers to the below questions will help voters discern how candidates propose to address the challenges of unsustainable cost increases and uneven quality and access, and help move the debate from the polarizing ideological fight over repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to discussion of solutions that could command bipartisan participation.

#### *Three Key Questions for the Republican candidates for President and Congress:*

- 1. If the Affordable Care Act is to be repealed, are there any policies authorized by the law that you would maintain? Specifically, would you retain or repeal rules and programs to:**
  - Prohibit insurers from excluding or rescinding coverage for persons with pre-existing conditions?
  - Provide advance refundable health insurance tax credits for individuals and small businesses?
  - Expand Medicaid to cover more low-income persons?
  - Create state health exchanges?
  - Require that insurers offer a range of standard benefits packages?
  - Require insurers to cover preventive services at no out-of-pocket cost to enrolled patients?
  - Phase out the Medicare drug benefit "doughnut hole"?
  - Require higher Medicare and Medicaid payments to primary care physicians?
  - Expand scholarships and loan forgiveness for physicians in primary care specialties who agree to provide medical services to underserved communities?
  - Study the comparative effectiveness of different treatments?
  - Initiate pilots of new patient-centered and value-based Medicare and Medicaid payment and delivery models?
- 2. If you favor eliminating any or all of the above policies, what policies do you advocate to increase access to health insurance, to address the shortage of primary care physicians, and to reduce costs and improve value? Specifically:**
  - Do you believe it should be a goal of federal policies to ensure that all legal residents have affordable health insurance coverage?
  - If not, what do you propose to reduce barriers to affordable care?
  - How many people would be covered under your proposals?
  - How would you propose to increase the supply of primary care physicians, given current projections of a shortage of more than 40,000 primary care physicians?
  - What specific plans do you have to reduce health care costs and increase value?
  - If the individual insurance requirement is eliminated, do you favor another approach to encourage people to buy insurance when healthy, and to discourage them from waiting until they get sick to buy coverage?
  - How would you reduce the costs of defensive medicine? Do you support caps on non-economic damages and/or a national pilot of no-fault health courts?
- 3. If you believe that states, not the federal government, should have the principal responsibility for health reform, how would you address the problem of states having unequal resources to provide coverage, and the considerable variation among states that now exists in the percent of residents with coverage?**