

Rhode Island Business Group on Health

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2009 Legislative Agenda

The Rhode Island Business Group on Health (RIBGH) has been actively influencing and providing a business community voice in the shaping of Rhode Island healthcare policy, regulation, and legislation that promotes health care accessibility, affordability and quality. In 2009, RIBGH will continue to focus on driving quality and innovation to reduce health care costs and accessibility to quality health care. We will also monitor the impact of the Economic Stimulus Package on RIBGH's legislative priorities, especially Health Care Technology and Coordinated Health Care Planning.

Priorities for 2009 will focus on:

Coalition Initiatives for Health Care Reform: RIBGH supports the formation of a broader coalition of business and association groups in RI to have more impact on health care reform and to work with government in shaping healthcare policy. RIBGH will be a partner in the development of a comprehensive plan to control health care costs, improve quality of care, and expand access to quality health care coverage.

Health Care Technology: RIBGH supports greater health care transparency; including establishment of a statewide health information network and the ability for access to electronic medical records, which can improve patient outcomes and coordination of care and reduce duplication and inefficiencies in the system, all of which can significantly reduce health care costs for both purchasers and consumers. RIBGH supports policies that promote both public and private investments in the resources, standards, and technology needed to create an effective information network.

Evidence-Based Medicine: RIBGH supports evidence-based medicine initiatives encouraging, through reimbursement changes, the management of the health of the population through consistent application of those medical practices proven most effective. Evidence-based medicine relies on the employer, payer, and provider to collect data on outcomes to support the most effective forms of care and to encourage their use through refinement of the benefit design.

Universal Health Coverage: RIBGH supports the concept of universal health coverage and encourages fair and unbiased consideration of all initiatives aimed at improving access while controlling cost and improving quality. RIBGH will monitor and comment from the business perspective on all responsible universal health care proposals.

Coordinated Health Care Planning: RIBGH supports coordinated health care planning to address the problem of the uninsured in Rhode Island and improve health care quality, which requires the careful coordination of all stakeholders and a model that has built-in incentives to balance both quality and cost efficiencies.

