

President Obama's Record on Investing in Critical Public Services and Healthcare



“We believe in creating the infrastructure that serves as a platform for economic growth. We believe in making sure that the vulnerable among us and our seniors have a basic safety net, because we never know which one of us might at some point be stricken with an illness or suffer a layoff.”

—President Obama
[Speech in Dearborn, Mich., 4/18/2012]

Supporting Jobs Today

In response to the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which helped to create jobs while making the investments we need to create true economic security for the middle class. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the Recovery Act supported as many as 3.6 million jobs across the country by the end of 2010.

- The \$26 billion State Aid Package Jobs Bill **saved 300,000 teachers and public workers jobs from unemployment.**
- He has invested billions in first responders training and support **to keep us safe even during the recession.**

While Investing in Tomorrow

President Obama believes we have to do more than just recover from this economic crisis. We have to create true middle-class security by out-innovating, out-educating, and out-building the world.

- President Obama and pro-worker leaders in Congress have proposed a National Infrastructure Bank that would provide funding for low-cost loans and loan guarantees for public-private partnerships to fund transportation, drinking water and public housing projects, **creating tens of thousands of jobs across the country.**
- Obama signed the “VOW to Hire Heroes Act” which provides a tax credit for **employers who hire these returning heroes.**
- Through Project Rebuild, President Obama will **modernize at least 35,000 public schools across the country,** supporting new science labs, Internet-ready classrooms and school renovations in both rural and urban communities.

Keeping His Promise to Pass Healthcare Reform

President Obama passed the Affordable Care Act to restore healthcare as a basic cornerstone of middle-class security in America. The Affordable Care Act will make healthcare more affordable for families and small businesses and bring much-needed transparency to the insurance industry.

- Because of the new law, **34 million more Americans will gain coverage**—many who will be able to afford insurance for the first time.
- Once the law is fully implemented, about **95 percent of Americans under age 65 will have insurance**.
- When fully implemented, the Affordable Care Act will **keep insurance companies from taking advantage of consumers**—including denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions and cancelling coverage when someone gets sick.

"I reject the idea that we have to strip away collective bargaining rights to compete in a global economy. We shouldn't be in a race to the bottom, where we try to offer the cheapest labor and the worst pollution standards. America should be in a race to the top. And I believe we can win that race."

– President Obama
[Address by the president to a Joint Session of Congress, 9/8/2011]

Providing Security to Working Families

- **Working families are protected from losing their healthcare or being forced into bankruptcy when a family member gets sick or is in an accident.** Families have the security of knowing their health insurance will be there when they need it most.
- Insurance companies are now required to justify rate hikes, and consumers have the ability to appeal to an independent third party when insurance companies refuse to cover services or care.
- Starting in 2014, all Americans will have access to affordable health insurance no matter their circumstances—**whether they change jobs, lose their job, decide to start a business, or retire early**. Purchasing private insurance in the new state-based health insurance exchanges could save middle-class families who can't get employer-provided insurance thousands of dollars.
- Once fully implemented, the law will slow healthcare premium growth rates.

Better Care, Better Lives: The Affordable Care Act at Work

Millions of working families across America are benefitting from the Affordable Care Act as it continues to deliver on its vision of providing quality, affordable, secure healthcare to all, regardless of age, race, income, faith or profession. Millions more Americans are counting on the insurance protections and benefits of the law to come.

Affordable Healthcare

- In 2014, tax credits will be available to help families making up to \$88,000 pay for healthcare.
- 16 million more Americans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid in 2014.
- Small businesses can group together and drive down premiums by as much as 4 percent for small businesses.
- Competitively priced insurance offered through state-run exchanges, starting in 2014.
- Young adults are now eligible to stay on their parents' health insurance plans as they enter the workforce, until they turn 26.
- Before the Affordable Care Act, many private insurance plans included a lifetime limit on coverage—and nearly 20,000 people hit a lifetime cap each year. The Affordable Care Act banned these caps, and those who had already hit a lifetime limit will be eligible for coverage.

Pre-Existing Conditions

- Insurers are not allowed to drop people from health plans because of illness.
- After 2014, insurance companies are barred from denying coverage to anyone with a pre-existing condition.
- Before the Affordable Care Act, insurance companies could deny coverage to children with medical conditions. Now as many as 17 million children with pre-existing conditions can no longer be denied health insurance.
- The Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) provides insurance to people with health conditions who have been uninsured for six months, helping those with cancer or other serious conditions to get the treatment they need.



Medicare

- New efforts to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse in Medicare system.
- More affordable prescription drugs for those who hit the “doughnut hole.”
- The 47 million Medicare beneficiaries now have access to free health services—including an annual wellness visit, mammograms and other health screenings—to help detect and treat medical conditions early.

Lowering Costs

- All new insurance plans are required to cover certain preventive services without charging a co-pay or deductible.
- In 2014, families will pay lower premiums through state health insurance exchanges. A family of four with an income of \$33,525 could save as much as \$14,900 per year.
- As of 2018, seniors can expect to save on average \$200 per year in premiums, more than \$200 per year in coinsurance.
- According to the Congressional Budget Office, the law would save more than \$100 billion over 10 years.
- Millions of small businesses are now eligible for a tax credit to help pay for their healthcare premiums. The credit will increase to cover 50 percent of premium costs in 2014.

“The healthcare law means that working families can move forward toward more affordable, secure healthcare and better health, not backward to the status quo of skyrocketing premiums, insurance denials and unchecked profits for insurance companies.”

—SEIU President
Mary Kay Henry

“This is a make-or-break moment for the middle class, and for all those who are fighting to get into the middle class. Because what’s at stake is whether this will be a country where working people can earn enough to raise a family, build a modest savings, own a home, secure their retirement.”

– President Obama [Speech in Osawatomie, Kan., 12/6/2011]

