

Business Roundtable

Increase efficiency through expanded HIT, data availability, and health savings accounts

Organization Description: Business Roundtable is an association of chief executive officers of leading U.S. companies that collectively earn \$4.5 trillion in annual revenues and have more than 10 million employees. The Roundtable advocates for public policies that ensure economic growth, a dynamic global economy, and a well-trained and productive U.S. workforce. In general, the Roundtable focuses on issues it believes will have an effect on the economic well-being of the nation. The chief executives work on task forces that direct research, supervise preparation of position papers, recommend policy, and lobby Congress and the Administration on select issues. The Leapfrog Group was founded by the Business Roundtable in 2000.

Proposal Summary: Business Roundtable supports legislative and administration actions to make the health care system more efficient, while keeping patients safer and healthier. Priorities are to improve the quality of the health care system while reducing the overall costs of health care; give consumers more control of their health care decisions with better information about their care; improve patient safety; and transform the health care system through the use of technology. Business Roundtable seeks bipartisan solutions with public and private partnerships to adopt changes to improve the value of the health care system. Business Roundtable expresses its policy positions through a series of letters to Congressional leaders, position statements, and press releases. Its advocacy efforts focus on Medicare reform, quality, and HIT, specifically:

- **Coverage:** Increase flexibility for employers to offer health insurance to their employees with limited regulatory oversight. Further streamline the regulatory process for employer health coverage and help employers understand guidance and rules. Expand the availability of health savings accounts. Business Roundtable supports flexible spending arrangements as they provide consumers with more flexibility in spending their health care dollars and more freedom in making health care decisions, while making them more price sensitive.
- **Wellness and Prevention:** Support health promotion and disease management to control the cost of preventable and controllable chronic conditions.
- **Health Information Technology (IT):** Congress should pass comprehensive health IT legislation that includes interoperability standards in order to make the health care system safer, more efficient and more affordable. Health IT implementation should include computerized systems for prescribing drugs, digital medical records, and networking of hospitals and private practices.
- **Quality:** Release 100 percent of patient-protected information in the Medicare claims data base, including cost and quality information. Promote patient safety and customer value through Leapfrog Group.
- **Other:** Support federal and state governments' pandemic flu preparedness response plans. Encourage private sector response plans for a pandemic flu outbreak to address CEO and board involvement, capital planning, assets, human resources, crisis planning and legal considerations. Help employers understand the Medicare Part D benefit and the bid process for group/employer-sponsored Medicare prescription drug plans.

Proposal Date: 2005-2006

Source: Business Roundtable Website – Health & Retirement Task Force,
<http://www.businessroundtable.org/taskForces/taskforce/index.aspx?qs=14E5BF159FC>.