

**National Association of Counties (NACo)**  
*Collective government action to help prevent and treat disease*

**Organization Description:** NACo is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. NACo's membership totals more than 2,000 counties, representing over 80 percent of the nation's population. NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,066 counties by advancing issues with a unified voice before the federal government. Its work improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money.

**Proposal Summary:** NACo's health reform priorities are summarized in its health platform, which includes resolutions approved by its membership. NACo supports a universal health care system, which would provide basic care to all citizens. NACo believes preventive programs should be the cornerstone of the health delivery system and all levels of government should collaborate to create programs that detect preventable diseases early. It also supports using alternative delivery methods to reduce cost and backs efforts to use HIT to simplify the billing process.

- *Coverage:* NACo endorses universal health care coverage that provides basic care, but it does not offer specific recommendations for how to implement these changes. It also supports legislation and initiatives that reduce the number of individuals who do not have health care access or coverage.
- *Prevention and Wellness:* NACo supports collective action at the federal, state and county levels to create programs, policies and practices that encourage and facilitate healthy living and appropriate behavioral change. The organization believes in systematic integration of local public health considerations into land use planning and community design processes. NACo encourages federal and state governments and the private sector to collaborate with counties in reducing health care costs associated with preventable disease and disability, by creating and supporting programs that promote healthy behavior and the early detection and treatment of preventable diseases.
- *Health Information Technology (IT):* NACo backs efforts by the federal government, in consultation with state and county governments, insurers and providers, to develop a single claims form and electronic billing as a means to reduce administrative costs.
- *Cost:* NACo encourages using alternative delivery methods and treatment settings to reduce costs in the system.
- *Other:* NACo would like greater support for public health infrastructure and financing from the federal and state governments. NACo also advocates for many operational policy reforms, including protecting Medicaid rehabilitation services, eliminating direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription drugs, expanding beneficiary protections in the Medicare drug benefit, preparing for a flu pandemic, and reauthorizing the Ryan White CARE Act.

**Proposal Date:** 2006-2007

Source: *The American Country Platform and Resolutions*, <http://www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=Advocacy>.