

## Iowa Voices

In September 2007, CodeBlueNow! worked with The Gilmore Research Group, a Northwest market research firm, to conduct a phone survey, known as the CodeBlueNow! Pulse©. The CodeBlueNow! Pulse© is intended to gauge the public's views about priorities in health care reform. CodeBlueNow! intends to use this data to give voice to citizen's values and ideas on health care reform.

The following highlights what Iowans are saying about health care.

### What would you say is the BEST thing about the current national health care system?

That it is not government controlled yet. We can get care when we need it and don't have to wait; even access to healthcare for the poor or uninsured.

That there are a lot of people in the health care system – as in workers. Health care to population ratio is smaller than it is in other countries.

The freedom to choose the doctor and hospitals we want.

That there are a lot of choices of different types of health care; choices of physician.

Well I'd say it's better than none. They're starting to get in line with the prescription drugs and our experience with care has been good. My wife just had open heart surgery and she had excellent care. Prescription drugs are better than they were, but it could still be better; we're paying too much.

I am proud that we have some of the finest doctors in the world.

Innovation, new drugs, new procedures, research.

If you can afford it, you have good health insurance.

The health care system is great for the people that have health care and terrible for the people that don't. For those fortunate enough to have healthcare provided by employers, like us, it's great. There's a huge inequity; it's the richest country in the world and it's such a large number of people not covered.

If I didn't have it, I couldn't afford to buy it.

We should be glad something exists but I don't think it's anywhere near what it should be. Even though I have insurance, I can barely afford my prescription drugs. Even for people with coverage, it's not easy for them. I hate to think about what it's like for people without coverage. I think the care we do have, if people are able to take advantage of it, is good. But for people who don't have it, they're in trouble.

I have three kids and seven grandkids. No one has health care because they can't afford it.

## What would you say is the WORST thing about the current national health care system?

The cost: either you can get adequate care, but it costs too much if you have insurance. Insurance itself is very expensive, and if you don't have it its practically impossible. Me and my wife spend \$500 a month.

Not everybody has the availability. The small business owner has himself and his family, but not coverage for his ten or fifteen employees; he can't afford it. That's a major reason why people don't have coverage. I'm not saying everyone should pay or it would be good if anyone could have it. I think the insurance companies suck; they have too much power. We're very fortunate that our insurance is very good.

If you're not employed and in a group plan, the cost is prohibitive; you could go bankrupt.

Everybody's not treated equal. Whether you've got money or whether you don't, or your race or nationality, you're not treated equal. It shouldn't make any difference how much money you have; there's some people that can't afford it.

Interference from pharmaceuticals and lobbyists. I've had to wait in the waiting room while the pharmacist talks to the doctors for thirty minutes.

Not enough people are covered, children especially. Also, big co-pays.

I am 63. If I quit my job, I'm up a creek because I won't have health care from my employer. I don't have a supplement. Small businesses can't afford health care. My 40-year-old son doesn't have health insurance.

Ineptitude, bureaucracy and red tape. Communication between doctors when you have to go to specialists.

It's politically maneuvered.

That's it not equal. Whereas I have great luck with healthcare because I have a great package, others don't get the same care that they need. I'm in a lucky situation and I see others that aren't. And the costs.

It seems to be about politics rather than the actual patients. The choices of prescription drugs and services available, and how much people are charged; for those services, it's all dictated by policies and regulations of whoever is in office at the time, not necessarily about the actual patient and their actual needs.

It doesn't reach enough people.

## Do you have any other concerns about the health care system that we have not already covered?

When my husband dies I won't get it anymore, so I'll have to get on Title 19. That's the way John Deere works: when he goes, the insurance goes. So I'm trying to have enough money for when that happens, but it'll be hard.

I have concerns about the children that aren't being covered, and the discrepancies between the wealthy and the poor. I have concerns about the diet that many people in America have that brings on illness. There is a lot of preventive care that is not being covered by health insurance, and needs to be.

No one person is going to do it. The Democrats and Republicans are too busy bickering about it.

It is frightening where I am at. The thought of me having to provide my own insurance is daunting because of my wife and 2 kids. It is all my responsibility as a father and husband. My wife is a stay-at-home mom.

I would like to see the drug companies and insurance companies accountable.

To break out of the stalemate that the country is in - all talk and no action. We're not getting any action, just talk.

Why don't they go to Europe and see about socialized medicine? It would be better than ours. I think everybody should be covered.

I would like to see something that caters a bit more to the self-employed.

I am a single parent father. I have state health right now through title #19(transitional), until I get a better job or the baby gets older. I am working part-time as a dish washer and they do not offer health insurance. I think women single parent households get more benefits.

More needs to be done for people who are poor, especially for the elderly; they should not have to use their retirement plans for healthcare.

I don't like this limbo I'm in. I've always worked and now I'm in this mess because I got sick.

Some alternative medicine is not covered under regular insurance and it should be.

### **What do you feel would be the top three most important elements of an ideal health care system?**

Universal accountability, universal access, and consistency of quality

There should be care specifically for children, as well as the elderly. There should be care based more on the people and their needs. I am all for preventative care; the sooner you catch some thing, the lower the cost it will be to fix it.

Complete coverage and accountability to where the money is going.

Everyone who comes to a health place should be treated the same no matter how much money they have, they should all have access to the same services.

Preventative care like vitamins, exercise, and alternative medicine; go green – clean up the environment for better health; more emphasis in grade schools for healthy life styles.

People should have the choice to see what doctor they would want to see, and have a choice in prescriptions.

Equality; because you have more money doesn't mean you should get better health care.

Get the physician you want. Choose the method of your healing; if you wanted to use alternatives like new experimental cancer drugs.

Preventative insurance coverage should cover diseases like cancer and make sure that the health care system is more in control on how the money is spent.

Accountability of the people running the system, whoever that might be. If there's a problem with regulating the coverage for people, just to make sure that someone is held accountable.

It should be fair to all. If you break your arm in Chicago, the care and the cost should be similar to California.

Research and innovation, full disclosure of finances, and records of what the doctors have done.

### **Who would you trust to create a new health care system for the nation?**

One that is created by people from different walks of life; no government people. A combination of health care professionals and regular people who have problems getting coverage so that it would be well represented.

The people.

An organization of private individuals that won't be bought out.

Non partisan, private group not affiliated with any party or insurance companies.

I would trust the people who are actually paying for health care.

A consortium of all the above. No one group of those has enough knowledge to do it. It needs to be all of them looking it over and actually working on it, then arguing about it.

Working class blue collar workers not politicians.

A group of everyday common citizens, medical experts, and economists; no one particular group.

I'm on Iowa's council for human services, and we are responsible for Medicaid. Volunteers that have studied the issue should play a role.

People in my community.