

## Health Care Reform Talking Points

**NCJW MESSAGE:** Throughout its history, NCJW has been committed to advocating for high quality, comprehensive, confidential, nondiscriminatory health care coverage and services that are affordable and accessible for all. As such, NCJW is dedicated to seeing meaningful health reform that meets the needs of women and families enacted this year.

### TALKING POINTS:

- ▶ **Women need health reform now.** The current health care system does not work for women. Seven in ten women are either uninsured or underinsured, struggling to pay a medical bill, or experiencing another cost-related problem in accessing needed care. More than half (52 percent) of women have forgone necessary care because of cost—including not filling a prescription, skipping a medical test, or failing to see a doctor when they had a medical problem.
- ▶ **A public health insurance plan option is a critical part of quality health reform.** Through competition with private insurers, a public plan would help lower costs and improve quality while providing women and their families with a range of options to select the best plan for their needs.
- ▶ **Health reform must eliminate gaps in access to care.** In particular, health care reform must confront the particular obstacles faced by women in our current health care system and eliminate insurance industry practices that are especially harmful to women.
- ▶ **Health care services and information must be affordable.** Any health reform proposal must guarantee that all individuals have health care that they can afford, including both premiums and any out-of-pocket costs.
- ▶ **Health reform must guarantee high-quality comprehensive health care services at every stage in an individual's life.** In particular, NCJW believes that health reform must allow for equitable coverage of preventive care; the full range of reproductive health services; mental health care; dental care; chronic disease care; and end-of-life care.
- ▶ **Reproductive health care is basic health care for women.** Virtually all American women—98 percent—use contraception at some point in their lives. Additionally, the vast majority of people in the US—including people of faith—support universal access to birth control and accurate contraceptive information. Furthermore, a spring 2009 survey by the Mellman Group found that if a health reform proposal eliminated current insurance coverage of reproductive health services, such as abortion, 60 percent of people would oppose that plan.