

The National Women's Law Center's Women and Health Reform Project

Comprehensive, affordable health care is vital to women's well-being, yet far too many face serious obstacles in obtaining the health care that they need. While women are more likely to need and use care, they also have much more difficulty in obtaining and affording health care. They are more likely to be poor and to encounter cost barriers to full coverage. Moreover, women all too often face barriers to obtaining health services of critical importance, such as reproductive health services. Women across the country also experience injurious disparities in health care based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and other factors; and low-income women and women of color especially face systemic barriers to securing even the most basic levels of care.

With the fight for progressive health care reform currently facing a crossroads of major consequence at both the state and national level, addressing barriers to women's access to affordable, comprehensive health care is more important than ever before. Indeed, women must be active, vocal advocates in this fight. To that end, the National Women's Law Center has launched our **Women and Health Reform Project**. Our efforts will include:

- ***Women and Health Reform Toolkit: What Advocates Need to Know:*** Building from our "Women and Health Coverage" issue briefs and our "Women and Medicaid Toolkit, the "Women and Health Reform" Toolkit will provide resources to assist women's advocates to be full participants in the health care reform movement and policy debates at the state and national level. This resource will explore various health reform proposals from the perspective of impact on women's access to comprehensive, affordable quality care. [forthcoming]
- ***Women and Health Reform Conference Call Series:*** NWLC will convene this monthly collaboration of women's advocates to focus on health reform at the state and federal level, provide an on-going forum to learn from one another and share experiences and questions that have come up in addressing various health reform proposals.
- ***Technical and Informational Assistance:*** As states contemplate various health care reform proposals, NWLC will provide technical assistance as requested. This assistance will include, but not be limited to, providing written analysis of policy proposals, researching and answering specific questions, drafting testimony, giving presentations or hosting meetings.
- ***National Women and Health Care Coalition*** – The Center continues to host a broad coalition of national organizations - including women's advocates, women's health advocates, labor unions and health advocates, to respond to various federal health-related issues as they impact women.

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