



**ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
MEDICAL SOCIETY**

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**Health Care Reform**

Health Care Reform is a critical issue facing our country. President Obama has correctly identified health care reform as a priority for our time that must be successfully addressed. Providing medical and health care is a complex matter, and is vital that we have thoughtful, well-informed consideration of the challenges involved in re-designing a system of care to meet the needs of our citizens. Well-intentioned but poorly constructed policy decisions made to address short term needs could have serious consequences for patients and the future of medical care in our country.

We should have a mechanism that provides a basic level of medical insurance to all Americans. At the same time, we must construct a system that will have the healthcare manpower to meet those needs. We face serious shortages of medical personnel, and the projected shortages of physicians and nurses are particularly problematic. We have existing shortages of primary care physicians in Family, Internal, and Pediatric Medicine, the "front line " of medical care for most patients. We must address those needs quickly if we hope to be able to meet the expectations of our citizens.

And we must then find a way to provide sustainable method of paying for such insurance and care that will allow our country to be competitive in the global economy.

These are very large challenges, and we must have a national consensus on how to achieve these goals. Physicians will be active leaders in these discussions, and we will continue to care for our patients and advocate for their well being.

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*The Allegheny County Medical Society has 3,000 physician members from all specialties and is dedicated to providing leadership and advocacy on healthcare issues for the community and physicians. The organization has been serving Allegheny County since 1865. For more information, please contact ACMS at 412-321-5030 or acms@acms.org.*