

Health Care Reform

The IBEW supports the fight for REAL health care reform.

Why Do We Need Health Care Reform?

- Health care premiums are increasing three times faster than wages or inflation
- Health insurance company profits have increased more than 1,000 percent during the past five years
- Workers who have health insurance now pay 68 percent more than they did in 2000
- Every thirty seconds, someone files for medical bankruptcy in the United States



The status quo is unsustainable, and without action health care costs will crush families and businesses.

Five Points the IBEW Considers Essential for **REAL** Health Care Reform to Benefit Working Families

- 1. A public health insurance option should be included.** This will provide competition for insurance companies, drive out waste, bring down costs, and guarantee affordable health care for all.
- 2. Health benefits should not be taxed.** Taxing benefits will raise the costs for workers at a time when they need relief.
- 3. Employers should be required to pay their fair share (Play-or-Pay).** This will keep companies that do not provide health care from shifting the costs to all of us.
- 4. Small businesses should not be exempt.** Small IBEW employers provide health insurance for their workers, and exemptions put them at a competitive disadvantage for doing the right thing.
- 5. Affordable coverage for pre-Medicare retirees should be offered.** Currently, workers who retire before age 65 have no affordable options for finding coverage on their own.

