



Health Care Reform

AOTA Position:

The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) agrees with the growing consensus that there is a need for reform in the American health care system to address problems including coverage for the uninsured, access to care, quality, cost growth, and workforce shortages. As the professional association representing the interests of more than 100,000 occupational therapy practitioners and students, AOTA believes that a national debate and discussion about health care is needed.

AOTA's Concerns:

- Health care must have a proactive, prevention focus.
- Health care must address the whole person across the lifespan and his or her needs for acute and chronic care.
- Mental health and substance abuse parity must be included for all.
- The provision of health care services should be integrated across facilities, communities, and settings, including services where people live, work, and participate in society.
- Access to quality, affordable care for all should be the goal of reform.
- Ensuring access to supportive services for people with disabilities or chronic conditions is essential to promoting independence, productivity, and quality of life.
- Investments are needed in our health care education system to ensure the availability of qualified professionals like occupational therapy practitioners to meet growing needs.
- Occupational therapy should be covered to provide preventive services, rehabilitation and habilitation, community and facility services, and any other evidence-based approach shown to improve the quality of life.
- The use of health information technology must be maximized to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of care.

Enacting meaningful reform requires a bipartisan approach with the vision and commitment to invest in a system of health care—even if it may cost more now to deliver efficient, quality care in order to achieve greater future savings. Any health care reform must more equally and equitably distribute the costs and benefits of quality health care to all who need it, for the benefit of individuals and society.

For more information about AOTA's vision for health care reform contact AOTA's Federal Affairs Department at fad@aota.org.