

## Greetings

In this e-letter we provide you with the link to an excellent analysis of McCain's and Obama's health proposals. The analysis is by the Commonwealth Fund, a non-partisan, non-profit health policy organization.

Go to [www.commonwealthfund.org](http://www.commonwealthfund.org), click on "Comparing the Obama and McCain Plans for Health Care Reform" and on the right side you can download the full report and/or an excellent Chartpack with graphic summaries of the situation of the uninsured and the contrasting proposals.

The Commonwealth Fund's succinct summary of the differences between the candidates is as follows:

The presidential candidates' health care reform proposals offer fundamentally different visions of the future of health insurance in the United States. Both candidates propose reforms in which the health system would continue to be structured around private insurance markets, with a supporting role played by public insurance programs. But their plans diverge significantly on the way a reformed system should operate. McCain would change the tax code to encourage people to buy coverage through the individual insurance market and effectively loosen state rules governing the sale of insurance by allowing people to buy policies across state lines. Obama would encourage the continuing participation of employers in the health insurance system, expand eligibility for Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), and create a new insurance market "exchange"—with consumer protections, choice of public and private health plans, and income-based premium subsidies—that would largely replace the individual market. According to one estimate, discussed below, in 10 years McCain's proposal would reduce the number of people who are uninsured by 2 million out of a projected 67 million. Obama's plan would reduce the number of uninsured people by 34 million in 10 years.

**Don't forget to vote.**

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**Primary Care e-Letter**