



California, the Crisis and Opportunity

New America Foundation

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San Francisco, CA

California: Near Term Priorities

- Fiscal relief: Enhanced federal Medicaid assistance percentage (FMAP)
- Insurance assistance: COBRA, Medicaid
- Health care infrastructure:
 - Workforce training
 - Health information technology, broadband
 - Comparative effectiveness research
 - Prevention
- Children's Coverage: SCHIP reauthorization

California: Longer Term Priorities

- Medicaid financing waiver
 - Scope and reach
 - Foundation for broader reforms
- National health reform
 - Unknowns
 - Knowns

National Health Reform: Opportunities

- Common elements of reform
 - Role of public programs
 - Insurance access, exchange, choice
 - Financial assistance
 - Quality improvement and cost containment
- Limits to state-based reform
 - Financing capacity
 - Variations across states

National Health Reform: Opportunities

- System delivery reform
 - Transparency of cost and quality information
 - Payment incentives
 - Health information technology
- Triumvirate of national crises
 - Policy window for health reform

Closing Comment

“Change is impossible, but necessary.”

- Len Nichols

February 1, 2009