

# DISABILITY HEALTH COALITION

*Disability will touch the lives of most Californians*

**7.8 million California adults** – more than 1 in 4 – live with some kind of disability. That figure will dramatically increase in the next 30 years as the baby boom generation enters late life, the time of greatest risk of disability.

**1.1 million working-age Californians with disabilities** – 1 in 5 – have no health insurance; 1.5 million were uninsured during all or part of the previous year.

## **HEALTH CARE REFORM FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MUST:**

**Remove Barriers to Physical & Programmatic Access:** People with disabilities must be able to use all health care facilities, services, and programs. Health care facilities must provide accessible exam and diagnostic equipment to ensure quality care for people with disabilities. Health plans and health care providers must be held accountable to federal and state laws that prohibit disability discrimination and require access and accommodation.

**Guarantee Integrated Long-Term Care:** Fully funded, community-based, long-term care must be available in the home to support personal independence and family life. Services and medical supplies must not be limited by “homebound” requirements.

**Provide Durable Medical Equipment & Assistive Technology:** Provide appropriate devices that allow consumers to independently engage in home and community activities. Providers must assist with selection and use of devices.

**Coordinate Chronic Care Services:** Health care services for people with disabilities are often disjointed. To increase continuity, a multi-disciplinary team approach must be used to coordinate the multiple services and providers needed by consumers.

**Eliminate Work Disincentives:** Health care must be designed so people with disabilities do not have to choose between working and maintaining continuous, comprehensive health care.

**Promote Wellness:** Reform must invest in health promotion and disease prevention efforts that account for the diverse needs of people with disabilities, including the prevention of secondary conditions. People with disabilities should have access to specialists and choice of providers.

**Guarantee Mental Health Parity:** Reform must commit to assuring mental health coverage at the same level as physical health coverage.

**Ensure Affordability:** Prescription drug coverage, premiums, deductibles, co-pays, and other out-of-pocket expenses must be affordable.

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The **DISABILITY HEALTH COALITION** is a coalition of organizations with the common goal of increasing access to health care for people with disabilities.

Access to Independence; Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council;  
AT Network; Brain Injury Center; Breast Health Access for Women with Disabilities;  
California Coalition for Mental Health;  
California Council of Community Mental Health Agencies;  
California Disability Community Action Network;  
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers; Californians for Disability Rights, Inc.;  
Center for Disability Issues and the Health Professions;  
Center for Independence of the Disabled; Central Coast Center for Independent Living;  
Communities Actively Living Independent and Free;  
Community Research for Assistive Technology;  
Community Resources for Independent Living; Dayle McIntosh Center;  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund; Disability Rights Legal Center;  
FREED Center for Independent Living; Handi Habitats;  
Independent Living Resource; Independent Living Resource Center, San Francisco;  
Independent Living Resource Center, Santa Barbara;  
Independent Living Services of Northern California;  
LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired; Mental Health Association in California;  
Multiple Sclerosis California Action Network; Office on Disability and Health;  
Protection and Advocacy, Inc.; RespectABILITY Coalition;  
Silicon Valley Independent Living Center;  
Spinal Cord Injury Network International; The Alliance for Technology Access;  
Through the Looking Glass; Traumatic Brain Injury Services of California;  
World Institute on Disability

If you are interested in more information or would like to  
JOIN the **DISABILITY HEALTH COALITION**

## **DISABILITY HEALTH COALITION**

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