



Fact Sheet

- The Citizens' Health Care Working Group is a nonpartisan group authorized by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003.
- The Working Group consists of 15 members -- 14 citizens of diverse backgrounds from across the country, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
- It is tasked with engaging the public in a nationwide discussion of options to address the current problems in health care and improve the health care system in the United States.
- The Working Group is charged with developing recommendations for the President and Congress to provide U.S. citizens with "Health Care that Works for All Americans."
- An initial report was released in October 2005, *The Health Report to the American People*, and serves as a base to engage the American people in a dialogue on health care access, cost, and quality issues.
- Community meetings were held nationwide from January through May 2006.
- The Working Group issued its interim recommendations on June 2, 2006.
- The public has 90 days to comment on the interim recommendations. The Working Group will then issue final recommendations in September 2006.
- The legislation requires the President to comment and the following five Congressional committees to hold hearings on the recommendations of the Citizens' Health Care Working Group:
 - Committee on Finance of the Senate
 - Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate
 - Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives
 - Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives
 - Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives

For more information visit: www.citizenshealthcare.gov or contact the Citizens' Health Care Working Group, 7201 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 575, Bethesda, MD 20814, C. Chic Smith, Communications Director, 301-443-1592 / 202-689-4885 (cell), csmith@ahrq.gov