



Viewpoints

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Your voice can help transform local health care

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The health care crisis in America is becoming more evident every day. Northern Kentucky knows first-hand the challenges of the health care system and has made public health a priority issue. The Northern Kentucky Independent District Health Department, community representatives and others from the health care arena have identified the problems, gathered and analyzed data, and formulated goals and recommendations.

It's time to take our strategic health care planning to the national level.

ADVERTISEMENT The Citizens' Health Care Working Group, a non-partisan, independent body whose members were selected by the comptroller general of the United States, is conducting community meetings across the country to allow ordinary citizens the chance to reshape the health care system in America. Hundreds of residents from Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana are expected to contribute in the health care dialogue on April 29 at the Cinergy Center.

Participants will engage in small group discussions to tackle intricate issues on health care reform. The format for the meeting will be consistent with other meetings across the country as facilitators pose the following questions:

- What health care benefits and services should be provided?
- How does the American public want health care delivered?
- How should health care coverage be financed?
- What trade-offs are the American people willing to make in either benefits or financing?

The Working Group will record our answers to these questions and report its conclusions and recommendations to Congress. Federal law requires Congress to hold hearings on the recommendations.

To be heard, you must speak up.

The Northern Kentucky Community Action Commission has found that lack of sufficient means of payment for health services, inability to access health facilities due to limited operating hours or transportation issues, and lack of a primary care provider are all risk factors associated with access to health care in our community. Lending our voices to the national dialogue will help remove these barriers and let our neighbors know that quality health care is a right, not a privilege.

We have done our homework in Northern Kentucky. Let's bring our knowledge to the table.

Take this opportunity to share your experiences and insight to so that a solution can be found to give every American the right to receive affordable, quality health care. By contributing in the national effort to improve the system, you are helping push our community's health care infrastructure in a direction we know is necessary.

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