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**BPC LEADERS: A STRONG COMMITMENT TO HEALTH CARE REFORM**

Together, Senators Baker, Daschle, Dole, and Mitchell bring a wealth of health care policy experience to the Leaders' Project.



**HOWARD BAKER**

Since departing the Senate, Senator Baker has served as chairman of the board of trustees of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota and remains active in the organization's efforts to reform the health care system. In his role at the Baker Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee, he continues to engage in the health care debate through partnerships with groups like Better Health Care Together.

*"Everyone has a duty to care for their individual health, and it is our nation's duty to provide a system of care so everyone is protected. We need meaningful change in our national health care system. For reform to take place, we must find innovative, common ground solutions."*



**TOM DASCHLE**

Senator Daschle is the author of *Critical: What We Can Do About the Health-Care Crisis*, which proposes a path forward to improving the way health care is delivered in the United States. As Majority Leader, he worked to advance legislation to overhaul the nation's health insurance system, improve health care delivery to Native Americans, and provide seniors with access to affordable prescription drugs.

*"We need to move beyond ideology and partisanship and meet our common health care system challenges with common sense answers to provide affordable, quality health care to everyone in this great nation. We have no more time to waste."*



**BOB DOLE**

Senator Dole recently served as Co-Chair of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors. During his 35-year Senate career, he was Chair of the Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Senator Dole remains a committed advocate for hospice care, men's health, and Americans with disabilities.

*"Since serving on the President's Commission, I am even more convinced that it's vital we take on this challenge, once and for all, and reform our systems of care so people have better access, less bureaucracy, improved quality, and affordable costs. Americans deserve better opportunities to preserve their health."*



**GEORGE MITCHELL**

During his tenure as Senate Majority Leader, Senator Mitchell was a key negotiator in Congress' efforts to reform the health care system in the early 1990s. Additionally, through his membership on the Senate Finance Committee, he worked to provide health coverage for all Americans and

increase the government's investment in health care research and quality.

*"There is no doubt that concern about health care issues is top-of-mind for families and individuals across the country. I believe now is the right time for this issue to finally be resolved. We must galvanize bipartisan support for improving our nation's health care system."*

**MAKING HEALTH CARE WORK FOR ALL AMERICANS**

The overarching goal of the Leaders' Project is to create a bipartisan plan for reform that can be used to transform our nation's health care system for the 21st century. At the launch of the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) in 2007, our four Advisory Board members—former Senate Majority Leaders Howard Baker, Tom Daschle, Bob Dole, and George Mitchell—decided to devote significant time to one specific policy project that would exemplify their commitment to bipartisan action. Recognizing the current flaws in today's health care system, as well as the existing political stalemate in the reform debate, they selected health care as their signature issue.

The Leaders' Project on the State of American Health Care is taking a broad-based approach to tackling key health care challenges facing our country. Through comprehensive research and analysis and targeted meetings and workshops involving top practitioners and experts, it will lay the necessary policy foundation to accelerate constructive discussion and cooperative solutions for reform. The project seeks to develop and promote policies that will attract bipartisan support and address the delivery, cost, coverage, and financing challenges facing the nation.

The first phase of the Leaders' Project will culminate with the release of a report to the public, the Congress, and the Administration that will include solution-driven recommendations for reforming America's health care system. The second, and equally crucial, phase of the project will involve the four Leaders advocating their recommendations to key decision makers, demonstrating that reform is politically feasible.

**THE FOUR PILLARS OF HEALTH CARE REFORM**

-  Preserving and Improving Quality and Value of Care
-  Offering Affordable, Accessible Coverage Choices in a Reformed Insurance Market
-  Ensuring and Promoting a Strong Individual Role in Health Care Coverage and Costs
-  Securing a Workable Financing Mechanism for Health Care



**PROJECT TEAM**

While the four Leaders are spearheading this project, they are being guided by two of the top health care policy experts in the United States - Chris Jennings and Dr. Mark McClellan.

- **Chris Jennings** is a health policy veteran of the White House, Congress, and the private sector and currently serves as President of Jennings Policy Strategies, Inc. (JPS). Prior to founding JPS, he served in the White House as the Senior Health Care Advisor to President William J. Clinton at the Domestic Policy and National Economic Councils.
- **Dr. Mark McClellan** is Director of the Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform at the Brookings Institution and a former senior health care policy advisor to President George W. Bush. McClellan also served as a former Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and as a member of the President's Council of Economic Advisors.

The BPC is honored to have the support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). RWJF is working to ensure that all Americans have stable, affordable health care coverage.

