



THE SUCCESS OF HEALTH CARE REFORM DEPENDS ON NATIONALLY UNIFORM HEALTH CARE STANDARDS

Congress is being asked to consider an increased role for states in exercising governance and control over the health care system. A thorough examination of the history of health care regulation argues for nationally uniform standards instead.

Nationally uniform standards governing the organization and operation of the health care system are required to:

- Reduce the amount of regulation borne by purchasers, providers and taxpayers compared to compliance with standards that vary state-by-state;
- Provide equitable financing of health care coverage;
- Better serve the needs of local medical markets, each of which is immersed in interstate commerce;
- Provide the consistent environment necessary to foster innovation and experimentation in health care delivery and products;
- Build on the positive experience of employer-provided health care coverage that already enjoys the benefits of nationally uniform standards; and
- Better serve the needs of consumers in both rural and urban communities.

THE SUCCESS OF MARKET-BASED REFORMS REQUIRES UNIFORM STANDARDS TO PROMOTE HIGH QUALITY, COST-EFFECTIVE HEALTH CARE FOR EVERYONE. AMONG OTHER THINGS, NATIONALLY UNIFORM STANDARDS ARE ESSENTIAL TO:

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| • Organization of health care delivery. | • Financing. |
| • Quality and outcomes management. | • Cost Containment. |
| • Confidentiality. | • Claims dispute resolution. |
| • Market conduct. | • Preemption of restrictive state laws, |
| • Administrative procedures. | including but not limited to those |
| • Capitalization. | affecting employer-sponsored health |
| • Consumer protections. | benefit plans. |