



WEB-BASED RESOURCES FOR PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY

Federal Legislative Branch Resources

U.S. House of Representatives <http://www.house.gov/>

Find Member of Congress by name or state, telephone directory, committee directory and hearings, roll call votes.

U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk <http://clerk.house.gov>

Links to House calendar, congressional mailing labels, congressional history, understanding the legislative process, and "Kids in the House" teaching tools and lesson plan library for public policy outreach activities.

U.S. Senate <http://www.senate.gov/>

Links to Senators' websites, Senate calendar, committees, legislation and procedure, and the Virtual Reference Desk, a clearinghouse of online information, with guides to legislative processes and a glossary of terms.

Congressional Budget Office (CBO) <http://www.cbo.gov/>

CBO reports providing nonpartisan analyses to aid Congress in economic and budgetary decisions on programs covered by the federal budget, with link to CBO health reports.

Congressional Research Service (CRS) <http://www.loc.gov/crsinfo/>

CRS works exclusively for the United States Congress, providing policy and legal analysis to committees and Members of both the House and Senate, regardless of party affiliation. Well known for analysis that is authoritative, confidential, objective, and nonpartisan, CRS has been a valued and respected resource on Capitol Hill for nearly a century.

Government Accountability Office (GAO) <http://www.gao.gov/>

GAO reports from this "investigative arm of Congress" support Congress in meeting its constitutional responsibilities and help improve the performance and accountability of the federal government, including federal health policies and programs.

Guide to Law Online <http://www.loc.gov/law/help/guide.html>

Prepared by the Law Library of Congress, this tool is an annotated guide to sources of information on government and law available online.

THOMAS: Legislative Information <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Library of Congress developed the THOMAS website to make federal legislative information (e.g., bills, activity in Congress, **Congressional Record**, and committee information) freely available to the public.

THOMAS for Teachers <http://thomas.loc.gov/teachers/>

Includes classroom activities, lesson plans, and guides to congressional information at all learner levels.

Federal Executive Branch Resources

FirstGov <http://www.usa.gov/index.shtml>

The official U.S. gateway to all government information, including links to health portals, federal health agencies, the 50 states and U.S. territories governments, local governments, and tribal governments.

The White House <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

Links to White House press briefings, presidential proclamations and executive orders, interactive tool, policy issues, and federal agencies.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/>

Includes federal budget information for the executive branch agencies, the federal agency scorecards, U.S. government financial reports, and regulatory management.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) <http://www.hhs.gov/>

Policy and regulations, health resource locator and reference collections, grants, HHS reports and strategic plan, and family of agencies.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) <http://www.ahrq.gov/>

HHS's lead agency for research – on health care quality, costs, outcomes, and patient safety, with a nursing research section – that generates evidence for policy making.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) www.cdc.gov

HHS agency offering information and tools for science-based policy making addressing health promotion, prevention of disease, injury and disability, and preparedness for new health threats.

CDC National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs>

NCHS is the nation's principal health statistics agency, compiling statistical information to guide actions and policies to improve the health of people.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) www.cms.gov

HHS agency administering Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP, with links to policy and regulations, research and statistics, resources and tools.

HealthCare.gov www.healthcare.gov

This interactive, consumer-centric site is an official U.S. government resource managed by the HHS and highlighting the executive branch health reform reports and initiatives.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) www.hrsa.gov

HHS agency providing leadership, program resources, and services needed to improve access to culturally competent quality health care.

HRSA Bureau of Health Professions (BHP) <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov>

The BHP houses the Health Professions and the Division of Nursing in its mission to increase the population's access to health care by providing national leadership to develop, distribute, and retain a diverse, culturally competent health workforce providing the highest quality of care for all.

HRSA BHP Division of Nursing <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/nursing/>

Addresses nurse shortage by supporting nurse education, practice, retention via national workforce studies, and student, faculty, and institution grants and loans.

HRSA Geospatial Data Warehouse <http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov>

Provides single point of access to current HRSA information, e.g., HRSA grants by key program area or state, health professional shortage areas by address, medically underserved areas and populations. Create reports and maps with HRSA-related programs and facilities in an area of interest.

HRSA Health Workforce Information Center (HWIC) <http://www.healthworkforceinfo.org>

Provides information about the most recent resources on the nation's health workforce, including workforce programs and funding sources, workforce data, research, and policy, and educational opportunities and models.

HRSA National Center for Health Workforce Analysis <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce>

The center mandated to develop information describing the health professions workforce and the analysis of workforce-related issues for decision-making regarding future directions in health professions and nursing programs in response to societal and professional needs.

HHS Office of Global Health Affairs <http://www.globalhealth.gov>

The office develops U.S. policy and strategy positions related to health issues and provides policy guidance and coordination on refugee health policy issues.

HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) <http://www.omhrc.gov>

OMH protects the health of racial and ethnic minority populations (e.g., American Indians and Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Blacks/African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders) through the development of health policies and programs that will eliminate health disparities.

Indian Health Service (IHS) www.ihs.gov

HHS agency with links supporting policy such as program statistics of American Indian and Alaska Native demographic and patient care information, and clinical practice guidelines from a wide variety of best practices sources.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) www.nih.gov

HHS agency conducting and supporting medical research from its 27 Institutes and centers, and includes links to research-based information on diseases and disparities, online education resources for elementary, secondary, and college students, and teachers, and the public.

NIH National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) <http://ninr.nih.gov>

NINR improves the health of individuals, families, communities, and populations by supporting and conducting clinical and basic research, research training on health and illness, encompassing health promotion and disease prevention, quality of life, health disparities, and end-of-life.

NIH MedlinePlus[®] <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/>

Resource for patients and families, researchers, educators and learners, providing access to medical journal articles, extensive information about drugs, an illustrated medical encyclopedia, interactive patient tutorials, and the latest health news.

Department of Education (DoEd) Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE)

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/index.html>

OPE formulates federal postsecondary education policy and administers programs that address critical national needs, including Higher Education Programs (HEP) and the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) providing grants to colleges and universities to promote reform, innovation, and improvement in postsecondary education.

Federal Resources for Educational Excellence (FREE)

<http://explore.data.gov/Education/Federal-Resources-for-Educational-Excellence-FREE-/9hu8-jz8n>

FREE supports teaching and learning resources from the DoEd and other federal agencies. Health science learning activities and resources are apt for nurse educators serving all learner levels, including those involved in public outreach and/or education of K-12 teachers and learners.

Department of Labor (DOL) Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) <http://www.bls.gov/>

BLS is the principal fact-finding federal agency on labor economics and statistics, collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data including career guides and labor reports on nursing.

DOL Employment and Training Administration's (ETA) www.doleta.gov

ETA's High Growth Job Training Initiative and Community-Based Job Training Grants programs integrate and leverage resources from the nurse workforce system, education providers, and the health care industry to prepare a workforce to be competitive in the 21st century.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Health Administration

<http://www1.va.gov/HEALTH/index.asp>

The VA provides data and information about the federal veterans' health system and services, including its Office of Nursing Services (ONS) with programs such as professional resources, nursing research, and the VA Nursing Academy.

Statistical Abstract of the United States

http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/cats/health_nutrition.html

Data from the Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Bureau of Economic Analysis provide comprehensive summary of statistics on health care resources, utilization, diseases and conditions, expenditures, insurance, and risk factors.

U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) Access <http://www.gpoaccess.gov>

GPO Access is a service providing free electronic access to approximately a quarter of a million titles – legislative, executive, and judicial resources – available to the public and produced by the federal government. The information provided on this site can be used without restriction.

State Public Policy Resources

Council of State Governments, Healthy States Web <http://www.healthystates.csg.org/>

Information, reports, and publications on effective state health policies and issues.

National Black Caucus of State Legislators <http://www.nbcsl.org/>

National network and clearinghouse for discussion, dissemination, and exchange of ideas including health care, education, and workforce policies.

National Conference of State Legislatures <http://www.ncsl.org/index.htm>

Tracks education policy (e.g., post-secondary, career preparation); health care policy (e.g., access to health care, disparities, cost containment); and labor and workforce development policy.

National Governors Association Center for Best Practices' Health Division

<http://www.nga.org/cms/render/live/center>

Covers broad range of policy issues (e.g., aging and long-term care, disease management, health care information technology, healthcare quality, mental health and substance abuse, and health workforce).

National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators <http://www.nhcsl.org>

Serves as a catalyst for joint action on issues of common concern (e.g., health care, education) to all segments of the Hispanic community.

U.S. State Health Agencies <http://www.ehdp.com/vitalnet/shas.htm>

Links to each state's department of health and related agencies.

Other Related Health Policy Web Sites

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) <http://www.apiahf.org>

Promotes policy, program, and research efforts to improve the health and well-being of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA, NHPI) communities by advocating health issues, conducting community-based technical assistance and training, and providing data analysis and information dissemination on AA, NHPI health.

Center to Champion Nursing in America <http://www.championnursing.org/>

A joint initiative of AARP, the AARP Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the center's Web site links to a variety of reports and activities supporting solutions to the growing nurse and nursing faculty shortages. NLN is a member of this center's nursing council.

C-SPAN <http://www.cspan.org/>

Cable Satellite Public Affairs Network covering Capitol Hill, the White House, and national politics; use “Search” tool to identify, from video archive, hearings and speeches on topics such as Nursing, Health, and Education.

C-SPAN Congressional Chronicle <http://www.c-spanarchives.org/congress>

Web tool has indexed what each Member of Congress said on the floor, with searchable links to both the text of the remarks from the **Congressional Record**, and to the video of the remarks.

Institute of Medicine (IOM) <http://www.iom.edu>

IOM is a non-governmental organization chartered as a part of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences to provide independent guidance and analysis on health and science policy to policy-makers, professionals, and the public at large.

National Quality Forum (NQF) <http://www.qualityforum.org>

NQF is a public-private partnership, not-for-profit membership organization created to develop and implement a national strategy for health care quality measurement and reporting on patient outcomes, workforce productivity including nursing quality, and health care costs.

Social Law Library <http://www.sociallaw.com>

Practice areas in hospital and health care, dedicated to equal justice through equal access. Use the search feature noted at the top of the homepage.

The Joint Commission (TJC) <http://www.jointcommission.org>

This not-for-profit organization accredits and certifies health care organizations and programs in the U.S., and provides information on safety and quality of care, and research to develop evidence-based and meaningful performance measures that underpin its public policy initiatives.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

On December 10, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 25 establishes that health care is a human right.

The World Bank <http://www.worldbank.org>

The World Bank supports global health and economic development projects by providing financial and technical assistance.

World Health Organization (WHO) <http://www.who.int/en>

WHO, the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system, offers updates, feature articles, reports, and other information related to the state of global health.

Health Care Reform Research and News

THOMAS: Legislative Information <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

The Library of Congress developed the THOMAS Website to make federal legislative information (e.g., bills, activity in Congress, **Congressional Record**, and committee information) freely available to the public. It is at THOMAS where you may search for the **Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act** (H.R. 3590, which became the health reform Public Law 111-148) as a primary source. “About THOMAS” offers a little “how to”, if you are seeking a teaching tool guide to THOMAS, at:

http://thomas.loc.gov/home/abt_thom.html

HealthCare.gov <http://www.healthcare.gov>

This interactive, consumer-centric site is the official U.S. government resource managed by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and highlighting the executive branch health reform reports and initiatives undertaken nationally and in states to implement the health reform law, the **Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act** (P.L. 111-148).

GOP.gov <http://www.gop.gov>

Another political perspective on health care reform is that of the Republicans in the House, which currently is the majority party in that chamber. This Web site offers position papers, and links to blogs and videos.

Alternative Sources

There are more than the two major political parties' views on health care reform. For other sources, try the following.

C-SPAN <http://www.cspan.org/>

Cable Satellite Public Affairs Network covering Capitol Hill, the White House, and national politics. Use the "Search" tool to identify, from video archive, hearings and speeches on topics such as nursing and health reform. Also use the C-SPAN Health Care Hub at <http://www.c-span.org/HealthCare/to> explore links to resources and articles, to C-SPAN video on health reform hearings, and C-SPAN Washington Journal interviews on health policy.

Alliance for Health Reform <http://www.allhealth.org/>

The Alliance is a nonpartisan, non-profit group that believes that all in the U.S. should have health coverage at a reasonable cost. The Alliance does not lobby for any particular blueprint, nor take positions on legislation. The site has archives arranged by topic and multiple resources from videos of briefings to research studies to succinct issue briefs.

BackStory with the American History Guys <http://backstoryradio.org/2009/10/body-politics-a-history-of-health-care/>

This is the radio program of "Body Politics: A History of Health Care," broadcast in October of 2009. In 1912, Teddy Roosevelt became the first presidential candidate to stump for national health insurance. He lost that election, but a century later, the issue continues to divide Americans. On this episode, the History Guys explore the origins of the health care debate, and try to explain how we wound up with a system so different from the European model. They hear from Jacob Hacker, author of the "public option" plan and about why lobbyists hold so much sway over health policy. At the website, links are included as ancillary sources for the broadcast discussion, and for teachers' use in crafting lesson plans.

Kaiser Family Foundation <http://healthreform.kff.org/>

Kaiser is a non-profit, private operating foundation focusing on the major health care issues facing the U.S. Kaiser develops and runs its own research and communications programs, sometimes in partnership with other non-profit research organizations or major media companies. Kaiser serves as a non-partisan source of facts, information, and analysis for policymakers, the media, the health care community, and the public.

The Commonwealth Fund <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Health-Reform.aspx>

The Commonwealth Fund is a private foundation that aims to promote a high performing health care system that achieves better access, improved quality, and greater efficiency, particularly for society's most vulnerable, including low-income people, the uninsured, minority Americans, young children, and elderly adults. The Fund carries out this mandate by supporting independent research.

The New York Times Economix Posts <http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/author/uwe-e-reinhardt/>

This occasional blog by Princeton professor Uwe Reinhardt, one of the world's preeminent health care economists, offers very easy-to-read explanations of health care economics and policy. Not unlike the NLN's reliance on its values, Reinhardt maintains that the fundamental truth about health care in every country "is that national values, national character, determine how each system works." A little economics reading for health care providers is highly recommended, since most of health policy legislation revolves around economics, and economics is largely where we find the political ideology of health reform being debated.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) <http://www.rwjf.org/healthreform>

The RWJF, a philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all, creates leverage by building evidence and producing, synthesizing, and distributing knowledge, new ideas, and expertise in various health areas, including reform.

Trust for America's Health (TFAH) <http://healthyamericans.org/health-reform/>

TFAH is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to saving lives by protecting the health of every community and working to make disease prevention a national priority

Urban Institute <http://www.urban.org/health/index.cfm>

The Urban Institute is a nonpartisan think tank covering economic and social policy including health and health care.