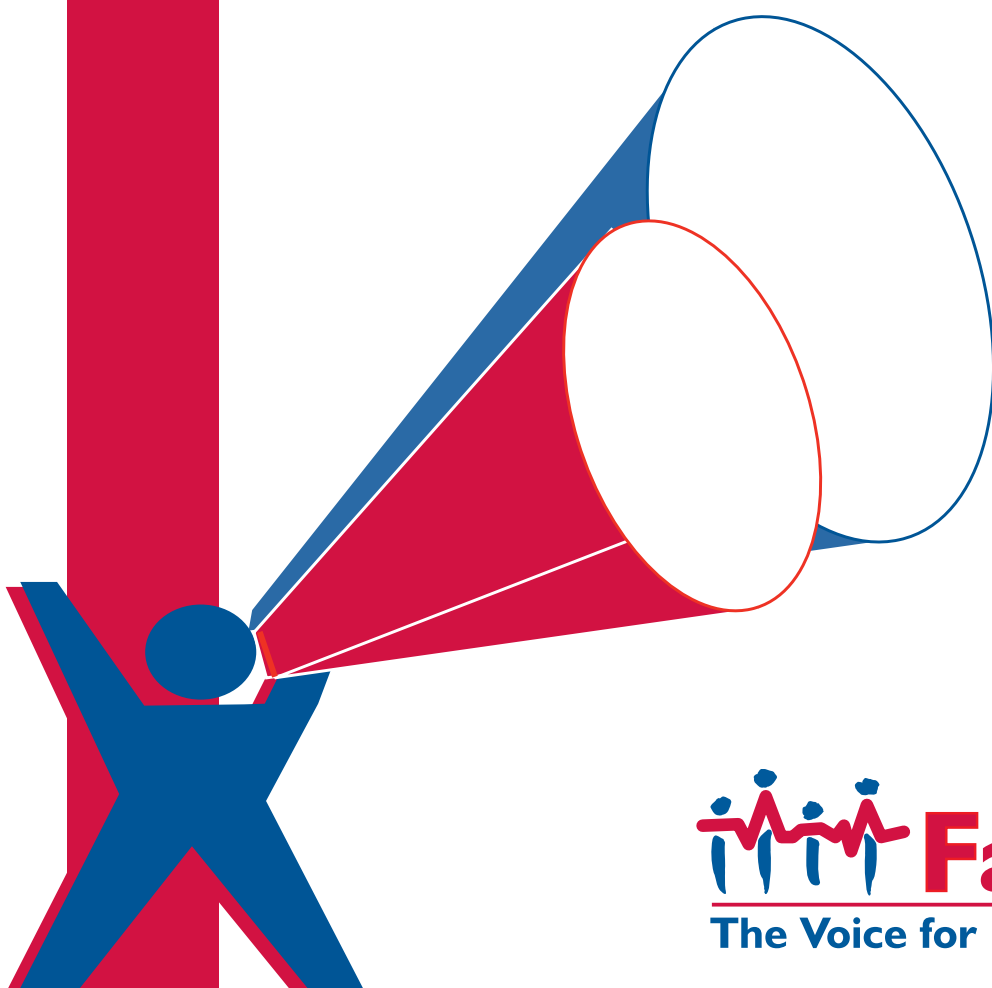


14th Annual Grassroots Meeting

# Health Action 2009

January 29-31, 2009

Renaissance  
Mayflower Hotel  
Washington, DC



 **Families**USA  
The Voice for Health Care Consumers

# We stand at the edge of a new era

in Washington and in our country—an era that holds great promise for health care reform to improve the lives of countless people. It is an exceptional opportunity for advocates and for those whose health may depend on reform.



## At the same time. . .

. . . opposing interests are no doubt marshaling their resources to stop reform from happening. What does this all mean for health advocates and our work in the coming year?

## It means we need to get ready

We need to build on our strengths, sharpen our skills, and hone our messages.

To borrow the words of President-Elect Obama, “*We* are the ones we have been waiting for. *We* are the change that we seek.”

## So join us in January at Health Action 2009

- ★ Hear powerful speeches from national leaders, including from the new Administration;
- ★ Listen to astute analysis from political experts and health policy wonks;
- ★ Get the latest on messages that work;
- ★ Enjoy the political satire of the Capitol Steps, who have no shortage of material this year;
- ★ Let your hair down with fellow health care advocates from across the U.S.

**Health Action 2009** occurs mere days after we welcome a new Administration and Congress and kick off a year with real potential for significant health reform. The timing couldn’t be better. We hope you can join us.

## Tentative Conference Agenda

We were honored that then-Senator Obama addressed our Health Action Conference in 2005 and again in 2007. We are making every effort to have President-Elect Obama open the conference in 2009, nine days after his inauguration as President.

### Wednesday, January 28, 2009

7:00pm \_\_\_\_\_ Registration and Welcome Reception

### Thursday, January 29, 2009

8:00am-5:00pm \_\_\_\_\_ Registration  
8:00am-9:00am \_\_\_\_\_ Continental Breakfast  
8:30am-10:30am \_\_\_\_\_ Opening Plenary  
10:45am-12:15pm \_\_\_\_\_ Workshops I  
12:30pm-2:00pm \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch Plenary  
2:15pm-3:45pm \_\_\_\_\_ Workshops II  
4:00pm-5:30pm \_\_\_\_\_ Plenary  
8:00pm-9:00pm \_\_\_\_\_ Special Cabaret Performance: The Capitol Steps

### Friday, January 30, 2009

7:45am-8:30am \_\_\_\_\_ Continental Breakfast  
8:00am-5:00pm \_\_\_\_\_ Registration  
8:30am-10:00am \_\_\_\_\_ Plenary  
10:15am-11:45pm \_\_\_\_\_ Workshops III  
12:00pm-1:45pm \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch Plenary  
2:00pm-4:15pm \_\_\_\_\_ Plenary  
4:30pm-6:00pm \_\_\_\_\_ Workshops IV  
8:00pm-11:00pm \_\_\_\_\_ Dessert and Dance Party

### Saturday, January 31, 2009

8:00am-9:00am \_\_\_\_\_ Continental Breakfast  
9:00am-10:30am \_\_\_\_\_ Plenary  
10:45am-12:15pm \_\_\_\_\_ Workshops V  
12:30pm-2:30pm \_\_\_\_\_ Closing Lunch  
2:30pm \_\_\_\_\_ Conference Adjourns

**Speakers:** Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT)\* ★ Paul Begala, CNN\* ★ Former Sen. Tom Daschle\* ★ Rep. Artur Davis (D-AL)\* ★ Rep. John Dingell (D-MI)\* ★ E.J. Dionne, Syndicated Columnist ★ Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)\* ★ Dr. Atul Gawande, Harvard School of Public Health ★ Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA)\* ★ Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO)\* ★ Bob Ross, President & CEO, The California Endowment ★ Gov. Kathleen Sebelius (D-KS)\* ★ Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) ★ and many others.

\*Invited

Check our Web site for updates at [www.familiesusa.org/conference/health-action-2009/conference-agenda.html](http://www.familiesusa.org/conference/health-action-2009/conference-agenda.html).

## **Tentative Workshops**

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Workshops to get you charged up and ready to work for health reform:

**Taking Care of Business: Reauthorizing CHIP**

**Mo' Money, Mo' Problems: Are Buy-In Programs Working**

**Bridge over Troubled Water: Sustaining Medicaid During the Economic Crisis**

**Back from the Precipice: Reversing Medicare's Privatization**

**Working with the Ethnic Media to Achieve Health Equity**

**The Domino Effect: Social Factors that Influence Health**

**Bare Bones & Big Bills: Limited-Benefit and High Cost-Sharing Health Plans**

**Federal Reform Proposals**

**How to Engage the New Administration and Congress**

**State Health Reform: A Roundtable Discussion**

**Tax Credits, Tax Deductions, Tax Exclusions**

**Long Term Solutions for Long Term Care: Getting Control of Costs Once & for All**

**The Real Deal: Making Medicare Sustainable for the 21st Century**

**All Aboard: Getting Young Invincibles and High Risks Covered**

**Storybanking: Personal Narratives as Tools for Advocacy**

**The Real Majority: Health Care and the Faith Community**

**Immigrant Health**

**Funding for Health Advocacy**

Overwhelmed? Excited? Just wait — there's more:

"Waiving" Goodbye to Medicaid as We Know It: Troublesome Waivers ★ Women's Health ★ Special Delivery: Getting Care to Vulnerable Populations ★ In the Trenches: Making Private Medicare Work for Beneficiaries ★ Friend or Foe? Making Private Medicare Work for Low-Income Beneficiaries ★ Which States Bench More? A Tool for Promoting Health Equity ★ How to Make Health Insurance Affordable ★ Employer Responsibility and ERISA ★ Tricks of the Trade: Will My Insurance Really Cover My Illness? ★ Expanding Medicaid for Adults ★ Health Care Reform and Communities of Color ★ View from the Senate ★ View from the House ★ Medical Research: Saving Health Care Costs While Helping Your State's Economy ★ Helping Consumers Get Care and Deal with Medical Debt ★ eAdvocacy and Blogging ★ Get Your Message Noticed by the Media

This conference agenda is subject to change. Updates on the agenda and workshops can be found on our Web site at: <http://www.familiesusa.org/conference/health-action-2009/conference-agenda.html>.

## Minority Health Track

This track will focus on minority health issues, including policy and grassroots efforts to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities. Come learn about activities at the national, state, and local level to address health disparities; meet advocates from around the country engaged in this work; and reconnect with colleagues in the field. This year's track will feature discussions on ethnic media, social factors that influence health, tools for promoting health equity, immigrant health, and health care reform.

If you plan to take advantage of the Minority Health Track, please check the box on the registration form.

**It Won't Be All Work at Health Action 2009:  
Join Us for Two Evenings of Fun and Camaraderie!**

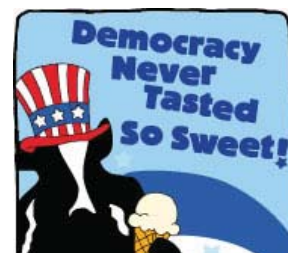


The Capitol Steps take a humorous look at serious issues: "the only group in America that attempts to be funnier than the Congress..."

### **Thursday Night at 8:**

A Musical/Political/Satirical Revue

Here's a chance to let your hair down and have some fun with fellow advocates. Get your fill of sweets and dance 'til you drop.



### **Friday Night at 8:**

Dessert and Dance Party

## **FREE LIT TABLE**

Pick up all the resources you'll need: policy reports, advocacy campaign materials, brochures, and more. A good way to learn about the issues and see what others are doing. Plus a wide variety of free materials from the Kaiser Family Foundation. If you have materials you'd like to share with conference participants, contact Nancy Magill at Families USA: 202-628-3030 or [nmagill@familiesusa.org](mailto:nmagill@familiesusa.org).



## **VISIT THE CYBERCAFE**

Computers with Internet access — and one printer — will be available for conference participants from 7:30am to 7:30pm Thursday and Friday, January 29 and 30, and from 7:30am to noon on Saturday, January 31.

Participants are asked to limit their computer use to 15 minutes at a time when the CyberCafe is full.

## Registration Information

The safest, easiest way to register is online. **REGISTER ONLINE** at [www.familiesusa.org/conference/](http://www.familiesusa.org/conference/). You can pay by credit card or we can invoice you if you register to pay by check.

Registration must be received by December 19, 2008 for the Early Bird rate of \$375. After that, registration is \$425. You may copy the form on the next page for additional registrations. For more information call 202-628-3030 or send an e-mail to [field@familiesusa.org](mailto:field@familiesusa.org).

**After January 12, please REGISTER ONLINE.**

Call the hotel directly for reservations: 202-347-3000 or 1-800-HOTELS1. Be sure to tell them you're with Health Action 2009 to get the special conference rate of \$179 per night.

Dress for the conference is casual. Continental breakfasts, lunches, and breaks will be provided.

### Registration:

Early Bird:     **\$375**  
Regular:         **\$425**

Registering more than one person?  
Fill out and submit a separate form for each.

To pay by credit card, you must **REGISTER ONLINE** at [www.familiesusa.org/conference/](http://www.familiesusa.org/conference/).

**Rooms:** (\$179 per night, single or double)

To reserve:  
202-347-3000  
1-800-HOTELS1

### Send Completed Form and Payment:

Please fill out the registration form completely and send with your check made payable to Families USA to: **Health Action 2009 Conference**, Families USA, 1201 New York Ave., NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005. You will receive an e-mail confirmation soon after.



### Cancellation and Refund Policy

Conference registration fees will be refunded (less a \$75 processing fee) for written cancellation requests e-mailed or faxed no later than January 23, 2009. Refunds will not be issued after that date or for conference no-shows. If you are unable to attend and wish to send a substitute, you may do so at no charge, as long as you let us know. (Note: if you reserved a room, you must call the hotel directly to cancel, 202-347-3000.)

### Looking for a Roommate?

If you're interested in sharing a room with another advocate to reduce your hotel costs, e-mail Regina Wise at [rwise@familiesusa.org](mailto:rwise@familiesusa.org) or call her at 202-628-3030 to let her know if she can give your name and number to others looking for a roommate.

# Health Action 2009 Conference Registration Form

January 29-31, 2009  
Renaissance Mayflower Hotel, Washington, DC

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nametag (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Special Accommodations

- Meals: I require a special diet (If you don't make a choice now, you will not be guaranteed a special meal):  
 Vegetarian  Vegan  Kosher  
 Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

- Check here if you need accommodations that meet the regulation of the American Disabilities Act. Please indicate the specific requirements you have here: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Hotel Information

- I am reserving a room at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel (1-800-HOTELS1 or 202-347-3000). (Please note: Room reservations must be received by the hotel by January 2, 2009 to ensure availability and to make sure you get the conference rate.)
- I would like to share a hotel room with another advocate. You may give my name and number to others looking for a roommate.

## Minority Health Track

- I am interested in attending the Minority Health Track sessions & reception.

## Payment Information

Early Bird Registration (by December 19) - **\$375**      Regular registration - **\$425**

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to Families USA.

**MAIL TO:** Health Action 2009 Conference, Families USA, 1201 New York Ave., NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005

**TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD, REGISTER ONLINE AT:** [www.familiesusa.org/conference/](http://www.familiesusa.org/conference/).

## The Details

**Health Action 2009** begins with a Welcome Reception on Wednesday, January 28, from 7-10pm. The conference officially opens on Thursday, January 29, at 9am and ends on Saturday, January 31, at 2:30pm. There is a Special Early Bird Registration rate of \$375, available until Friday, December 19. After that, registration is \$425. This fee includes three continental breakfasts, 3 lunches, afternoon snacks, music and political satire by The Capitol Steps, a dessert and dance party, a thumb drive chock full of resources—and a great meeting of like-minded people, working for justice and health care for all of us.

**Location:** The conference is being held at the historic Renaissance Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC. The Mayflower, located at 1127 Connecticut Avenue, NW in the heart of the business district, is the largest luxury hotel in Washington, DC. It is in close proximity to the White House, Smithsonian Museums, the Capitol Building, national monuments, neighborhood restaurants, and shopping. It has easy access to three metro subway lines. This hotel has a non-smoking policy.

**Registrants for Health Action 2009** are offered a special Mayflower rate of \$179 per room (single or double) per night plus taxes until January 2. (After that date, you may have to pay a higher rate—if a room is available.) If more than two people share a room, add \$30 per person per night, with a maximum of 5 occupants. You must guarantee your reservation with a credit card. (Reservations may be canceled without penalty prior to 4:00pm EST on the day of arrival.) Make your reservations with the hotel directly. Call 202-347-3000 or 1-800-HOTELS1. If you need an accessible room, tell the hotel when you make your reservation. Be sure to tell them you're with the **Health Action 2009** conference to get the special room rate.



**Looking for a roommate to share the cost of a hotel room?** Check off the appropriate box on the registration form and let us know if we can give your name and number to other advocates who want to share a room.

Valet parking is available at the hotel for \$39 per day and can be charged to your room. If you want more reasonably-priced parking or, for those who drive vans carrying wheelchairs, a PMI Parking Garage is located just around the corner from the hotel on DeSales Street. It costs \$15 for up to 12 hours and it has spaces for vans outfitted for wheelchairs. For door to door directions to the hotel, see the next page.

## Traveling to the Conference

### Getting to the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel

The Mayflower is within a block of the Farragut North Metro stop on the Red Line and a short distance from the Farragut West Metro stop on the Blue and Orange lines. You should call the hotel directly at 202-347-3000 to make your reservation unless you've been told otherwise by a Families USA staff member.

### Airline Travel



Carlson Wagonlit/Avenue Travel is the official Travel Agent for the Health Action 2009 conference. You can reach our agent, Lynn Hendrick, at 1-888-548-5554 or visit their Web site at <http://avenuetravel.com/familiesusa.htm>. A service fee of \$30 does apply to tickets booked through our agent.

## **From the Airports: Shuttles, Taxis, and Other Services**

**Reagan National Airport:** Shuttle: SuperShuttle (<http://www.supershuttle.com/>), 800-258-3826 (\$14 one-way, \$10 each additional person, up to 7 passengers can get a van for \$125); Taxi: \$15 (approx.).

**Dulles International:** Shuttle: SuperShuttle (<http://www.supershuttle.com/>), 800-258-3826 (\$29 one-way, \$10 each additional person, up to 7 passengers can get a van for \$125); Taxi: (\$50 approx.).

**Baltimore-Washington International (BWI):** Shuttle: SuperShuttle (<http://www.supershuttle.com/>), 800-258-3826 (\$35 one-way, \$12 each additional person, up to 7 passengers can get a van for \$110); Taxi: \$60 (approx.).

If you need wheelchair transport, you may contact Battles Transportation at 202-462-8658. Rates are: \$160 from Dulles and BWI airports and \$75 from Reagan National Airport Monday through Friday before 6pm; \$175 from Dulles and BWI airports and \$110 from Reagan National Airport Saturday and Sunday before 6pm.

## **Public Transportation**

**From Reagan National Airport:** Follow signs to the Metro. Take the Yellow Line train toward Mt. Vernon Square-UDC and get off at the Gallery Place-Chinatown stop. Go up a level to the Red Line train toward Shady Grove or Grosvenor and take the train to Farragut North. Take the L Street exit and bear right one-half block.

**From Dulles International:** Follow signs to the ground transportation exit and catch a cab to the West Falls Church Metro Station. At the West Falls Church Metro, take the Orange Line train toward New Carrollton and get off at Metro Center. Go up a level to the Red Line train toward Shady Grove or Grosvenor and take the train to Farragut North. Take the L Street exit and bear right one-half block.

**From Baltimore-Washington International (BWI):** Take the free shuttle to the Amtrak Station and take either the MARC Rail or Amtrak to Washington's Union Station. At Union Station, take the Red Line toward Shady Grove or Grosvenor to the Farragut North station. Take the L Street exit and bear right one-half block.

## **Driving**

**From New York City:** Take Route 95 South to 495 West (toward Silver Spring). Continue past Silver Spring and take the Connecticut Avenue Exit South for 8 miles. The hotel is located at 1127 Connecticut Avenue, NW. As you drive south, you will see the hotel on your left about two blocks past Dupont Circle.

**From the Pennsylvania Turnpike:** Take Route 70 South to 270 South to 495 East (towards Silver Spring). Exit at Connecticut Avenue South and proceed for 8 miles. The hotel is located at 1127 Connecticut Avenue, NW. As you drive south, you will see the hotel on your left.

**From Richmond, Virginia:** Take 95 North, which becomes 395 North. Take 395 over the 14th Street Bridge. Take 14th Street to K Street, NW; turn left. Take K Street to Connecticut Avenue. (In order to make the right turn onto Connecticut Avenue, you must get onto the K Street Service Lane between 16th and 17th Streets, NW - watch the signs!). After you get onto Connecticut Avenue, proceed for a block and a half. The hotel is located at 1127 Connecticut Avenue, NW and will be on your right.

**From the West:** Take 66 East to the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge and exit onto Constitution Avenue. Take Constitution Avenue to 20th Street and turn left. Take 20th Street to L Street and turn right. Connecticut Avenue is the cross-street immediately after 18th Street, NW. Turn left onto Connecticut Avenue, and the hotel is within the first block on your right at 1127 Connecticut Avenue, NW.

## Cosponsors of Health Action 2009

Health Action 2009 is organized by Families USA and cosponsored by a wide range of other organizations from the health care community.

The Access Project  
AFSCME  
AIDS Action  
Alzheimer's Association  
American Association of University Women  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Public Health Association  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Association for Community Affiliated Plans  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations  
Association of Jewish Aging Services of North America  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Black Women's Health Imperative  
B'nai B'rith International  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Center for Medicare Advocacy  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities  
Church Women United  
Common Cause  
Community Catalyst  
Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust  
Consumers Union of the U.S.  
CWLA  
Generations United  
Health Care For All  
International Union, UAW  
The Joint Center for Political & Economic Studies  
Justice & Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ  
Migrant Legal Action Program  
National Alliance for Hispanic Health  
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Coalition of Mental Health Professionals & Consumers  
National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare  
National Health Law Program  
National Medical Association  
National MS Society  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Women's Health Network  
NCCNHR: The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care  
NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
The Opportunity Agenda  
OWL - The Voice of Midlife & Older Women  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Pharmacists Planning Service  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Poverty & Race Research Action Council  
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need  
Service Employees International Union  
Summit Health Institute for Research and Education  
Universal Health Care Action Network

## Haven't been to a Health Action Conference? Here's a sampling of what you've missed . . .



*"We can't continue to ignore the fact that many people, especially in the minority community, are more likely than others to lack health insurance, receive lower quality care, and suffer from worse health outcomes."*  
--Speaker Nancy Pelosi, January 24, 2008

**2008:** Speaker Nancy Pelosi (CA); the late Rep. Stephanie Tubbs-Jones (OH); Sen. Blanche Lambert Lincoln (AR); Sen. Ken Salazar (CO); Gov. Mark Warner (VA); Former Majority Leader Tom Daschle; Paul Begala, CNN; Wade Henderson, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; Drew Westen, Westen Strategies; Dr. Donald Berwick, National Institute of Healthcare Improvement; Dr. Anthony Fauci, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH

**2007:** Sen. Barack Obama (IL); Uwe Reinhardt, Princeton University; Sen. Gordon Smith (OR); Sen. Sherrod Brown (OH); Sen. Edward Kennedy (MA); The Rev. Dr. Bob Edgar, National Council of Churches; Sen. Bernie Sanders (VT); Si Kahn, activist, singer, songwriter



*"How do we fix SCHIP? How do we fix Medicaid and how do we make sure Americans across this country can say without any equivocation that this is the best health care in the world and I can access it?"* --the late Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, January 24, 2008

**2006:** Sen. Debbie Stabenow (MI); Rep. John Dingell (MI); Gov. Rod Blagojevich (IL); Sen. Richard Durbin (IL); E.J. Dionne, Syndicated Columnist; George Lakoff, Rockridge Institute (by videoconference); Representative Artur Davis (AL)



*"Make no mistake, accessible, affordable and secure health care is one of the most important civil rights issues in today's America."*  
-- Wade Henderson, January 26, 2008

**2005:** Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (NY); Bob Ross, California Endowment; Sen. Barack Obama (IL); Sen. John Kerry (MA); Rep. Sherrod Brown (OH); Sen. Ron Wyden (OR); Rep. Patrick Kennedy (RI); Rep. Donna Christensen (VI); Dora L. Hughes, Office of Sen. Edward Kennedy; Tom Perez, UMD School of Law; Joe Trippi, Trippi & Associates

**2004:** Rep. Xavier Becerra; Sen. Jeff Bingaman; Bob Blendon; Sen. Edward Kennedy (MA); Andrew Stern, SEIU

**2003:** Uwe Reinhardt, Princeton University; President Bill Clinton; Gov. Howard Dean; Rep. Tom Allen (ME)

**2002:** Tom Scully, CMS; Marian Wright Edelman, Children's Defense Fund; Barney Frank (D-MA)

**2001:** Sen. Tom Daschle (SD); Rep. Henry Waxman (CA); Sen. Hillary Clinton (NY); Sen. Edward Kennedy (MA)



*"Access to quality and affordable health care must be, it has to be, and that's the message you have to carry, that it has to be one of our very top priorities in this country."* --Sen. Blanche Lambert Lincoln, January 24, 2008


**2000:** Michael Moore (Filmmaker); Robert Kuttner, American Prospect; Alexis M. Herman, Secretary of Labor; Dr. David Satcher, U.S. Surgeon General; Rep. John Lewis (GA)



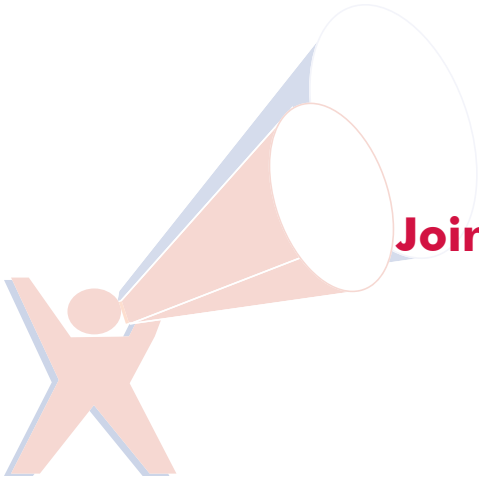
*"We've come a long way . . . since January 25, 1961, but unfortunately our health care system has not progressed much at all."* --Former Sen. Tom Daschle, January 25, 2008

**1999:** Vice President Al Gore; Sen. Jay Rockefeller (WV); Julie Rovner, NPR; Rep. Greg Ganske (IA); Rep. Jan Schakowsky (IA)

**1998:** the late Sen. Paul Wellstone (MN)

**FamiliesUSA**  
The Voice for Health Care Consumers  
1201 New York Ave., NW  
Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

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## Join Us for Health Action 2009

**Health Action 2009** is organized and managed by Jeff Gordon, Maryellen Barreca, and Regina Wise with much help from others on the Families USA staff, many of whom take responsibility for conference sessions. Our consultant, Ellen Toups, Outreach, Inc., helps us overall and takes the lead in all the hotel arrangements.

To contact Families USA Staff:  
Families USA  
1201 New York Ave., NW Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-628-3030 Fax: 202-347-2417

You can contact individual staff by e-mail:  
first initial + last name@familiesusa.org  
(example: jgordon@familiesusa.org)  
For general e-mail, use info@familiesusa.org.



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National Grassroots Meeting

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