



Health Reform in CA: Looking back, Looking ahead

National Health Policy Conference
February 2, 2009
Washington, D.C.

California Model

- Individual mandate
- Insurance market reform
- Expanded public programs, subsidies
- Delivery system reform
- Population-based prevention
- Shared responsibility for financing

Point with Pride, View with Alarm

- Successful states: Point with pride to results, implementation challenges.
- Unsuccessful states: Thoughtfully point to lessons learned.

Looking Back: Process

- Leadership matters; bipartisan leadership matters most; broad-base of legislative champions matters most of all
- Diverse, broad-based coalitions for change are possible but require work
- Pace – set a bold goal and deadline and don't dawdle on your way to the finish line
- Neutral 3rd parties and fiscal and policy research a must

Looking Back: Policy

- Comprehensive – more is more
- System performance – it's not *all* about "the card"
- Affordability/financing – it really *is* all about the money
- Market reforms – it really *is* rocket science
- Ideology – extremes=failure

Looking Ahead: Priorities for California-Based Reform

- Get the state's fiscal house in order.
- Stabilize public program foundation for broader state reform.
- Look to Nation's Capitol for near-term financial lifeline and longer-term health reform partnership.

Looking Ahead: Longer Term Opportunities

- If the states will lead, the feds will follow - broad outlines of federal reforms mirror many state experiences, innovations, proposals
- Federal government as essential partner for reform
- Imperative for delivery system reform as well as coverage
- Opportunity by "triumvirate of national crisis - economic recovery, health reform and entitlement reform"

A Final Word

"Change is impossible, but necessary"