

George Bush for President

9/1/88

THE GEORGE BUSH RECORD ON HEALTH CARE

George Bush has a record of interest in and concern for a variety of health care issues, ranging from research to early child health care to drug treatment and health training and education.

LEGISLATIVE RECORD

As Congressman, George Bush:

Cost

- o Voted in favor of authorizing the funds for federal grants for comprehensive health programs in the states. [HR 6418 (1967)]
- o Voted in favor of the bill establishing a program of federal grants for treatment of alcoholics; health services for migratory workers; regional medical programs, heart disease, cancer, and stroke and for rehabilitation of narcotics addicts. [HR 15758 (1968)]

Quality

- o Voted in favor of a bill designed to expand and improve the training of medical and allied health personnel, provide construction and other improvement grants for training and research facilities and broaden health student loan and scholarship programs. [HR 15757 (1968)]
- o Voted in favor of extending assistance programs to states and localities for comprehensive Health Planning. [HR 18110 (1970)]
- o Voted in favor of amending Title IX of the Public Health Service Act of 1965 and extending and improving the existing programs relating to education, research and training in the fields of heart disease, cancer, stroke and other major diseases and conditions. [HR 17570 (1970)]

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Fund for by George Bush for President

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- o Voted in favor of providing grants to medical schools and hospitals to assist in establishing programs in the field of medical practice. [HR 19599 (1970)]

Access

- o Voted in favor of extending authorizations for building and staffing community Mental Health facilities. [HR 6431 (1967)]
- o Voted in favor of authorizing grants for hospital construction and modernization. [HR 11102 (1969, 1970)]
- o Co-sponsored legislation to modernize and construct medical facilities under a three year program of loans and grants. [HR 18189 (1970)]
- o Sponsored legislation to attract medical practitioners to areas where their services are scarce. [HR 19036 (1970)]

COST, QUALITY AND ACCESS

Cost

- o "Competition must be introduced to both increase quality and to stop cost increases in the health industry."

George Bush Issue Statement,
1980

- o "I have long supported efforts to provide for coverage of the costs of serious, long-term, or chronic illness. I believe this nation and its citizens must have a program to cover the catastrophic medical expenses for everyone unable to handle them."

George Bush Issue Statement,
1980

- o "Clearly, the rise in health care costs must be slowed. A Bush Administration will address this problem by both controlling costs and providing more comprehensive coverage under Medicare."

Vice President George Bush
Issue Statement, 1988

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- o "The prospective payment system instituted in 1983 has finally permitted us to get a handle on hospital costs....When Congress decided to institute a differential scale for payment to rural and urban hospitals, it hurt rural hospitals....As President, I will support efforts to correct this differential payment problem in a way that will not bankrupt the federal budget."

Speech by Vice President
George Bush, Iowa Methodist
Hospital, 1/22/88

- o "I have supported the Administration's effort to slow the increase in hospital costs through the institution of the Prospective Payment System."

Vice President George Bush
Issue Statement, 1988

- o "We also need to do more to promote the option of enrolling in innovative plans such as Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO) and Preferred Provider Organizations (PPO) and to induce competition among health care providers."

Vice President George Bush
Issue Statement, 1988

Quality

- o "The development of effective HMOs can help improve access to quality care, particularly in rural and center cities."

George Bush Issue Statement,
1980

- o "To avoid adverse effects on the quality of health care, we should keep the role of the federal government to a minimum."

George Bush Issue Statement,
1980

- o "We need first rate health care professionals to fill those hospitals..."

Speech by Vice President
George Bush, 1/22/88

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- o "If we are going to stop this erosion of medical care in rural communities, we've got to restore common sense and fairness to the medical malpractice system. And one way to do that, and a way I strongly endorse, is tort reform."

Speech by Vice President
George Bush, Iowa Methodist
Hospital, 1/22/88

Access

- o "We need to encourage more of our medical graduates to go into family practice, and we also need to ensure that there are incentives to work in areas that are now underserved."

George Bush Issue Statement,
1980

- o "...we have to attract and keep physicians in rural communities....Today, if you are pregnant in a rural county, you might have to travel a long way to have a baby delivered. The potential health risks to mother and child are alarming."

Speech by Vice President
George Bush, Iowa Methodist
Hospital, 1/22/88

NURSING SHORTAGE

As Congressman, George Bush:

- o Co-sponsored an amendment to Title XVIII (medicare) of the Social Security Act which would have extended eligibility for 24 hour nursing services to hospitals not formerly qualifying. [HR 19470 (1970)]

As Vice President, George Bush said:

- o "Currently, patients in more than 40 percent of all nursing homes get no more than 6 minutes of RN time apiece per day -- and almost a quarter of all homes have no RNs at all. Those are startling statistics, but as all of you already know, we have a shortage of professional nurses in this country."

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"We've got to get more and more people interested in nursing, and that includes not just women but men, minorities, and people who want to re-enter the workforce in mid-career. There are great opportunities for nurses all across America -- and those opportunities are expected to grow and expand.

"As our health care system diversifies, professional nurses will be needed in ever-growing numbers to work in HMOs, ambulatory surgery centers, and home health groups. Those patients who need to be hospitalized will require the sophisticated care that must come from professional nurses."

Speech by Vice President
George Bush, Iowa Methodist
Hospital, 1/22/88

AIDS

Like most Americans, George Bush is concerned about the spread of the deadly scourge of AIDS, and its impact on both its victims and society.

- o "I favor testing, confidentiality; I favor using the bully pulpit, speaking out against promiscuous lifestyles, monogamous -- favor monogamous relationships; I favor compassion and caring."

Des Moines, Iowa Debate,
1/8/88

Testing

- o "The government will require testing of prisoners, immigrants, and aliens seeking permanent residence. Tests are being conducted in the military and in the foreign service.

"Additionally, we are encouraging the states to offer routine testing for those who seek marriage licenses and for those who visit sexually transmitted disease or drug abuse clinics. We are also encouraging states to require routine testing in state and local prisons."

Bush response to Biblical
Scoreboard, 12/1/87

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- o "Of course, any mention of testing must be hurriedly followed by the word, "confidentiality."

Bush response to Biblical Scoreboard, 12/1/87

- o Bush said he favored AIDS testing for prison inmates and couples applying for marriage licenses. But he said states should take the initiative of passing those regulations - not the federal government.

(AP), 4/23/88

Anti-discrimination

"We must wage an all-out war against the disease -- not against people."

Speech by Vice President
George Bush, 6/1/87

- o Vice President George Bush said yesterday that he would support a federal law barring discrimination in jobs and schools against people with the AIDS virus.

Baltimore Sun, 6/29/88

- o Bush reiterated his support for "widespread testing... with strict confidentiality and antidiscrimination provisions," and pledged to give "the highest priority" to seeking a cure for AIDS.

Washington Post, 6/29/88

- o "I have long advocated testing [for AIDS] and if people are going to come forward to be tested, there ought to be a guarantee of anti-discrimination.

"Then there's the problem of the innocent child who is a victim of AIDS and should not be discriminated against based on prejudice or false information."

Washington Times, 6/29/88

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Education

- o "Those at high risk must be educated on how to avoid contracting the disease."

Speech by Vice President
George Bush, 6/1/87

- o "I believe that education [about AIDS] is primarily a local matter."

Speech by Vice President
George Bush, 6/1/87

- o Asked about AIDS, Bush said he supported further education about the hazards of the disease.

(UPI), 11/6/87

- o Asked about AIDS, Bush said he supported "some penalty" for people who knowingly pass the acquired immune deficiency syndrome virus to someone else.

(UPI), 11/6/87

Research

- o "First and foremost we desperately need a cure or vaccine. I chair the President's Task Force on Regulatory Relief and earlier this year we worked with the Food and Drug Administration to accelerate the availability of experimental drugs to AIDS patients. We did this to encourage more research and development on potential AIDS vaccines by the private sector."

Speech by Vice President
George Bush, 6/1/87

- o "I favor a federal role in the research."

League of Women Voters Debate,
2/14/88

Role of the Federal Government

- o "As an elected official, I think an important role of the federal government is to provide timely, factual, and impartial information about this deadly, insidious disease."

Speech by Vice President
George Bush, 1988

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AIDS and Drugs

- o "The AIDS crisis and the drug crisis are intertwined. We will be unable to stop the spread of AIDS if we do not stop the spread of drug abuse."

Statement by the Vice
President on the AIDS
Commission Report, 6/28/88

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