



Advancing Healthcare Reform: The American Heart Association's 2020 Statement of Principles for Adequate, Accessible and Affordable Health Care

The American Heart Association (AHA) has a long history of leading efforts to improve access to quality health care. We have consistently prioritized the needs and perspective of the patient in taking positions on health care reform, while recognizing the importance of biomedical research, providers, and health care delivery systems in advancing the care of patients and the prevention of disease. In order to fulfill our mission "to be a relentless force for a world of longer healthier lives," we recognize continuous improvement is needed in the delivery of health care, with the acknowledgement that the health system overall must remain sustainable and effective at delivering optimal patient care.

- The AHA previously published principles for improving health care in 1993, and again in 2008, issuing recommendations that allowed us to evaluate and support subsequent proposals and legislation, including the Affordable Care Act (ACA).
- Since the passage of the ACA, millions of previously uninsured Americans have gained access to comprehensive health coverage through the expansion of Medicaid, the establishment of the Health Insurance Marketplace, and the creation of a number of consumer protections designed to mitigate discrimination from providers and health care systems and limit insurers' ability to deny, limit, or cancel coverage.
- Despite significant access gains over the past decade, millions of Americans remain uninsured and the affordability of health insurance coverage is a challenge.



to prevent cardiovascular disease and improving overall well-being with

Principles for Adequate, Accessible and Affordable Health Care

The AHA has prepared this updated statement of our principles for health care that is adequate, accessible, and affordable for everyone living in the United States. Building upon the core tenets of our prior statements, these up