

# Health Care: What We Want, What We Need and What We Can Afford

## 2012 Panelists



Ron Pollack is the Founding Executive Director of Families USA, the national organization for health care consumers. Families USA's mission is to achieve high-quality, affordable health coverage for everyone in the U.S. Families USA's numerous analyses - on such matters as health coverage for the uninsured and underinsured, Medicaid, Medicare, long-term care, and others - are frequently cited at Congressional hearings, in state legislatures, by the media, and by consumer organizations that Families USA works with all across the country.

Mr. Pollack is a frequent guest on a variety of television and radio programs, such as The PBS NewsHour, NBC's Today show, ABC's Good Morning America, all of the network nightly news programs, and NPR's All Things Considered and Morning Edition. He is often quoted in such leading newspapers as The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, and The Los Angeles Times. Mr. Pollack's has received various honors. The Hill, a publication serving members of Congress and their staffs, named Mr. Pollack one of the nine top nonprofit lobbyists. Modern Healthcare named Mr. Pollack one of the 100 Most Powerful People in Health Care. National Journal named him one of the top 25 players in Congress, the Administration, and the lobbying community on Medicare prescription drug benefits.

Mr. Pollack is the Founding Board Chairman of Enroll America, an organization composed of very diverse stakeholders working together to secure optimal enrollment of uninsured people through effective implementation of the Affordable Care Act. In 2007, at the 25th anniversary of Search for Common Ground, a nationally renowned conflict management organization, Mr. Pollack received the "Common Ground" co-award for his work with a group of ideologically diverse health organizations that reached an historic consensus proposal about expanded health coverage for the uninsured. Previous winners of the award included former President Jimmy Carter, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Muhammad Ali.

In 1997, Mr. Pollack was appointed by President Clinton as the sole consumer representative on the Presidential Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry. In that capacity, Mr. Pollack helped prepare the patients' bill of rights that has been enacted by many state legislatures.

Prior to his current position at Families USA, Mr. Pollack was the Dean of the Antioch School of Law. Mr. Pollack was also the Founding Executive Director of the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), a leading national organization focused on eliminating hunger in the U.S. Two of his notable accomplishment at FRAC include: (1) arguing two successful cases on the same day in the U.S. Supreme Court to secure food aid for low-income Americans; and (2) the successful federal litigation that resulted in the creation of the WIC program for malnourished mothers and infants.

Mr. Pollack received his law degree from New York University where he was the Arthur Garfield Hays Civil Liberties Fellow.

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Robert E. Moffit, a seasoned veteran of more than three decades in Washington policymaking, is The Heritage Foundation's senior fellow in The Center for Policy Innovation. Moffit long has specialized in civil service and government reform, and health care and entitlement programs, including Medicare. He brings to these efforts his government experience as a senior official of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) during the Reagan administration. Moffit also directed Heritage's Center for Health Policy Studies from 2003 until June 2010, and continues to provide technical assistance to Congress on health care bills and amendments. Since his framing of Heritage's response to President Clinton's plan to nationalize health care, and the subsequent 1993 publishing by the Washington Post of his criticisms, Moffit has been one of the media's go-to experts on health care. He regularly appears on radio broadcasts and in newspapers across the country addressing health care issues. In 2010, Moffit was named among "The Most Powerful People in Health Care" by Modern Healthcare magazine and has authored articles in professional journals such as Health Affairs, Journal of Contemporary Health Law and Policy, and Harvard Health Policy Review. Additionally, he is a co-author of *Why Obamacare is Wrong for America* (Harper Collins, 2011). Moffit holds both a master's degree and a doctorate in political science from the University of Arizona. He received his bachelor's degree in political science from LaSalle University in Philadelphia. He also holds public service awards from a variety of organizations across the country.



Mary Agnes Carey has covered health reform and federal health policy for more than 15 years as an editor at CQ HealthBeat, as Capitol Hill Bureau Chief for Congressional Quarterly and at Dow Jones Newswires. A frequent radio and television commentator, recently featured on the Nightly Business Report, the PBS NewsHour and on NPR affiliates nationwide, Mary Agnes has a thorough understanding of both the policy and politics of health reform. She worked for newspapers in Connecticut and Pennsylvania, and has a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University.