

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Bipartisan Policy Center Announces New Task Force on Delivery System Reform and Health IT Led by former Senate Majority Leaders Daschle and Frist**

*New BPC report recommends strategies for effective implementation and  
utilization of health IT*

*Washington, D.C.* - Recognizing the need for alignment between ongoing, intensive investments in health information technology (IT) and fast-moving delivery system and payment reforms, the Bipartisan Policy Center's (BPC) Health Project today launched its Task Force on Delivery System Reform and Health IT. The Task Force, co-chaired by former Senate Majority Leaders Tom Daschle and Bill Frist, now co-leaders of the BPC's Health Project, includes 24 nationally recognized and respected health system experts and leaders.

"I'm pleased to lead this critical effort on the behalf of the Bipartisan Policy Center and proud of the Task Force we've assembled, which includes leaders from every sector of health care," said Senator Frist at today's launch event in Washington, D.C.

Later this year, the Task Force will release recommendations for aligning current health IT efforts to best utilize scarce public and private resources in support of new care delivery models that will improve the quality of care for all Americans.

"The Task Force will identify examples of organizations who have promoted accountable, patient-centered care," continued Senator Frist. "We will highlight opportunities for and challenges related to leveraging health IT to support these new models of care. The Task Force will recommend key actions that must be taken to lay the foundation for delivery system and payment reforms that promise to improve health and health care in this country."

At today's launch, the Initiative released a progress report, [\*The Role of Health IT in Supporting Health Care Transformation: Building a Strong Foundation for America's Health Care System\*](#), which outlines opportunities for leveraging health IT to support delivery system reforms. The report outlined several key recommendations to help accelerate progress on health IT implementation issues.

Specifically, the report recommends improving coordination and alignment of health IT and reform efforts to identify opportunities for synergy and develop shared solutions for common needs; integrating lessons learned from early implementation efforts associated with large-scale programs to address unanticipated needs and issues; and enhancing strategies for engaging consumers in reform efforts through the use of health IT and emerging consumer technologies.

The BPC report also recommends increasing the focus and public-private sector collaboration on two areas critical to achieving improvements in health and health care delivery through IT by expanding implementation assistance and workforce training, particularly for small physical practices, small hospitals and clinics that support rural and underserved populations. Finally, the report recommends collaborating on the development and execution of a multi-faceted strategy for achieving thoughtfully designed, privacy-protected health information exchange in the U.S.

"An important first step in the transformation of our health care system is the continued development and widespread use of health IT. The report we are releasing today highlights the many efforts in the public and private sectors that are already underway, promising to generate creative solutions, instruments and incentives to drive the successful and widespread adoption of health IT," said Senator Daschle today. "Our recommendations show that, if used wisely, health IT promises smarter, coordinated and more efficient health care. We have compiled a top-notch group of experts on our Task Force who will develop a careful plan, which we hope will build on existing efforts and capitalize on health IT's great potential to improve quality and reduce costs."

To read the full report, which was authored by Janet Marchibroda, Chair of the Health IT Initiative, please visit our [website](#). The BPC's Health Project was launched in January 2011. In addition to Senators Daschle and Frist, the Project is also led by former South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds and former Ohio Governor Ted Strickland.

#### BPC's Task Force on Delivery System Reform and Health IT:

- Senator Tom Daschle, Co-Chair
- Senator Bill Frist, Co-Chair
- Scott Armstrong, President and Chief Executive Officer, Group Health Cooperative
- Peter Basch, MD, FACP, Medical Director, Ambulatory EHR and Health Information Technology Policy, MedStar Health
- Christine Bechtel, Vice President, National Partnership for Women and Families
- David Blumenthal, MD, MPP, Harvard University, Former National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, Department of Health and Human Services

- Christine Cassell, MD, President, American Board of Internal Medicine
- Reginald Coopwood, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, Regional Medical Center at Memphis
- Janet Corrigan, PhD, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Quality Forum
- Governor John Engler, President, Business Roundtable
- Alissa Fox, Senior Vice President, Office of Policy and Representation, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
- Douglas E. Henley, MD, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer American Academy of Family Physicians
- Karen Ignagni, President and Chief Executive Officer, America's Health Insurance Plans
- Brent James, MD, M.Stat., Chief Quality Officer and Executive Director, Institute for Health Care Delivery Research, Intermountain Health Care
- David Lansky, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Business Group on Health
- Jack Lewin, MD, Chief Executive Officer, American College of Cardiology
- Deven McGraw, Director, Health Privacy Project, Center for Democracy and Technology
- Margaret O'Kane, President, National Committee for Quality Assurance
- Stephen Palmer, State Health IT Coordinator and Director, Office of e-Health Coordination, Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- Herb Pardes, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, New York Presbyterian Hospital
- John Rother, Executive Vice President, Policy, Strategy and International Affairs, AARP
- Governor Mike Rounds, State Co-Leader, BPC Health Project
- Michael Simpson, Vice President and General Manager, Healthcare Knowledge and Connectivity Solutions, GE Healthcare
- Governor Ted Strickland, State Co-Leader, BPC Health Project
- Tony Tersigni, EdD, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ascension Health System
- Betsy Weiner, PhD, RN-BC, FACMI, FAAN, Senior Associate Dean for Informatics, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing

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**About the Bipartisan Policy Center:**

In 2007, former U.S. Senate Majority Leaders Howard Baker, Tom Daschle, Bob Dole, and George Mitchell formed the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) to develop and promote solutions that can attract the public support and political momentum to achieve real progress. Currently, the BPC focuses on issues including health care, energy, national and

homeland security, transportation, science and economic policy. For more information, please visit our website:  
[www.bipartisanpolicy.org](http://www.bipartisanpolicy.org).

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