



FLORIDA DEMOCRATS

Putting Floridians First Because Security Begins At Home

FLORIDA DEMOCRATS ON HEALTH CARE

Democrats Support Funding and Expanding Health Care for Kids. We believe every child in Florida deserves quality health care. Right now, more than 500,000 children in Florida lack basic health insurance, and because of Republican changes to the state's highly successful KidCare health insurance program, another 100,000 have been added to the ranks of the uninsured. KidCare is a national model for delivering health insurance to the children of working families through affordable premiums. It should be expanded, not cut.

Florida's children are among our state's most vulnerable citizens, and they deserve access to quality health care. For the past decade, Democrats have fought to provide affordable and quality health care to children, while Republicans have obstructed our efforts, instead choosing to favor giveaways to special interests and the mega-rich at the expense of the youngest and most vulnerable.

Democrats Support Increasing Access to Affordable Health Care. We believe that access to health care should be a right, not a privilege. For the past decade, Republicans have done little to lower the cost of health care, and due to their lack of action, roughly 3.5 million Floridians live without health insurance. At the same time, we have supported efforts to provide small businesses with tax incentives and other options to help lower the cost of health insurance. Unlike the Republicans, we believe companies receiving tax breaks should use those incentives to provide their employees with health care, rather than providing golden parachutes for their executives and padding their profit margins.

Democrats Support a Simpler Medicare Prescription Drug Plan. We believe that people should come before drug companies. For too long, seniors have been waiting for relief from the rising cost of prescription drugs. Now, if they wish to sign up for the new Medicare prescription drug benefit, Florida's seniors face a bureaucratic nightmare and are forced to jump through multiple hoops and fear arbitrary penalties.

The George W. Bush administration botched the new plan from the start, and seniors are paying the price – a *higher* price than if the government allowed Medicare to negotiate costs with drug companies. Democrats place the needs of our seniors over the profit margins of the pharmaceutical industry, and that philosophy will guide better policy and a better program for seniors.

Democrats Support Medical Research. We believe that the long-term answer to the crisis of rising health care costs lies in better prevention and early treatment. Democrats support increasing the state's investment to university-supported ethical medical research, including biomedical and stem cell research.