

NEWS

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**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE OFFERS COMPARISON OF BUSH VS.
KERRY POSITIONS ON HEALTH CARE**

Washington, D.C. - The American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) today released a side-by-side comparison of the health care proposals of the two 2004 Presidential candidates. The objective, non-partisan document compares each candidate's positions across a variety of dimensions—such as health insurance coverage, costs and financing, quality of care, and disease prevention.

ACPM has prepared this unique document as a service for its members and other health professionals and consumers who view health care as an important issue in the upcoming election. The document culls information from a variety of sources, including the platforms available on both candidates' web sites, various articles from national media sources, expert reviews from academic scholars and national foundations, and various fact sheets and speeches by the candidates.

According to Dr. Mark Johnson, Chair of ACPM's Policy Committee, "As a health professional and an individual voter concerned about health issues, I was surprised to find so few objective comparisons of the two candidates stands' on critical health issues. In preparing this document we hope to help health professionals and healthcare stakeholders who otherwise might spend hours navigating the web compare the positions of the two candidates."

As a 501(c)(3) organization, ACPM takes no official position on the presidential candidates. However, ACPM adopted its current position on health care reform in late 2003, calling for all U.S. residents to have access to and payment for a national package of essential health services. Along with the candidate comparison, ACPM also compared the two candidates' positions to ACPM's health reform statement, *Health Care for All* [ACPM Position Statement 2003-085(F)]. The analysis shows that the two

candidates' health reform positions and approaches are substantially and fundamentally different, though both fall short of the goal of universal access. The main differences lie in the number of uninsured that will be covered through each plan, the amount that it will cost to provide additional coverage, and each candidate's approach to extending coverage to the millions of uninsured Americans. The candidates also differ markedly on the use of economic tools to reduce under- and over-utilization of health services, particularly with respect to Health Savings Accounts.

To access ACPM's comparison chart and analysis of the candidates' positions against the College's fundamental principles for health reform, visit <http://www.acpm.org/comparingthecandidates.htm>. ACPM's *Health Care for All* position statement is available at [http://www.acpm.org/2003-085\(F\).htm](http://www.acpm.org/2003-085(F).htm).

The American College of Preventive Medicine is the national professional society for physicians committed to disease prevention and health promotion. ACPM's 2,000 members are engaged in preventive medicine practice, teaching and research. ACPM advocates for the specialty of preventive medicine and for national policies that promote health and prevent disease. ACPM maintains an active presence on Capitol Hill and among the many federal agencies and non-governmental organizations that shape national health policy.

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