

ANN ASHFORD: A PLAN TO FIX OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE



Ann Ashford was born into a family of health care providers and has spent her entire 35-year career in Nebraska either working directly in health care or in human resources designing and administering health care plans. Ann will work to ensure universal access because health care is a right. Her life experience has given her the depth of personal knowledge necessary to fix our broken health care system in a way that actually works for Nebraska, not just New York or California.



MORE Choice of Health Care Options, Not Fewer

- Ensure you and your family have the flexibility to choose the plan that works best for you, whether it's through your employer, union, or otherwise
- Offer Medicare as a public option to all individuals regardless of age
- Eliminate the "Cadillac" tax
- Disallow "junk plans" and require plans to cover all 10 essential benefits of the Affordable Care Act
- Protect and improve the Affordable Care Act
- Ensure Federally Qualified Health Centers and Critical Access Hospitals receive full funding for caring for underserved populations



Make Health Care Affordable for Everyone

- Place a cap on health care expenses, including premiums, copays, deductibles, and co-insurance of 8-8.5% of an individual/family's annual income
- Require transparency for charges for all preventive, screening and diagnostic services as well as for a provider's 25 most common procedures or treatments
- Require electronic medical record companies to provide access and interoperability among systems
- Disallow tax exempt treatment for spending by tax exempt health care organizations that is not directly tied to patient care, such as marketing expenses, e.g., advertising and buying naming rights to public facilities
- Ensure US health care facilities receive the same pricing on medical equipment, devices and technology that health care facilities receive in other countries
- Reduce administrative burdens for providers



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Ensure Access to Life-Saving Prescription Drugs



- Mandate Medicare negotiate pricing on all pharmaceutical medications
- Place limits on pharmaceutical advertising
- Expand fast-track DEA approval for more medications
- Stop pharmaceutical manufacturers from blocking less expensive generic medications
- Provide research into the effects and uses of medical marijuana, specifically regarding the opioid crisis, and remove marijuana as a Schedule 1 drug
- Enact legislation to provide for importation of pharmaceuticals that have been approved in other countries with the same safety standards



Provide Health Care for Our Most Vulnerable



- Ensure that the current Medicare framework for seniors is intact and strengthened
- Address the needs of Alzheimer's and dementia patients and their families with federal legislation
- Provide a mechanism for payment to family caregivers providing home-care services to ailing or aging loved ones
- Reduce the cost of long-term care insurance and provide incentive programs for staff of long-term care facilities for training and certification



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