

The headlines may be filled with debates on the current health insurance reform package, but Congress started working on health care issues way back in January, working to extend health coverage for millions of children. Several other bills were also passed though the course of 2009.

Today, of course, we're facing an even bigger issue. The House in early November passed the **Affordable Health Care for America Act**, a bill that would maintain and expand choice, lower costs and cover millions of uninsured Americans. The country is now awaiting Senate action to see how we'll move ahead.

[Click here](#) to read general provisions of the bill.

[Click here](#) to review some of the myths associated with the legislation.

[Click here](#) to see 10 provisions that will take effect immediately upon the bill's enactment.

### **Other health-related highlights from Congress:**

Congress began taking action on the **Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act** even before President Obama was sworn in. He signed the bill on February 4, increasing the number of children covered by SCHIP from 7 million to 11 million.

Congress also took strong action to improve American health by granting Food and Drug Administration the **authority to regulate tobacco**. The FDA can now regulate advertising, marketing and manufacturing of tobacco products.

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