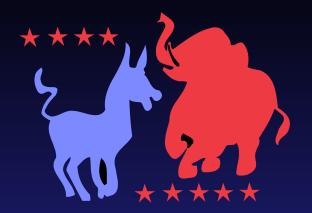
## What The Elections Will Mean For Health Care



Gail R. Wilensky
Project HOPE
November 14, 2002

## When The Election Was Over --



Most pundits were surprised

White House

House

Senate

--

\_\_\_

Republican

Republican

Republican

### What Happened?



Voter intensity is hard to measure

and

Republicans had the better turnout



## What Will This Mean For Healthcare



-- It's Not Clear Yet --

"51 Votes is Nice But Not a Lock"

## Lots of Turmoil in Health Care...

Medicare



Managed Care

Medicaid

Employer-Sponsored Insurance

### Growing Sense of Frustration

Spending is High and Growing



Value is Uncertain

Patient Safety & Quality Are Problems

## Hot Issues for Congress and the Administration



- Medicare Reform and Prescription Drugs
- "Other" Rx Issues
- Medicaid
- Medical Liability
- Uninsured

## Medicare Spending Is Again On The Increase



<b>'97</b>	• •	O
9/	- '9	Ŏ

(Growth Rates)

$$-0.5\%$$

Projected

6.9% (annual)

# Spending Isn't Medicare's Only Problem



- 1960s Coverage
- Cumbersome Program
- Long-Term Financing Problem

#### Most Agree ---

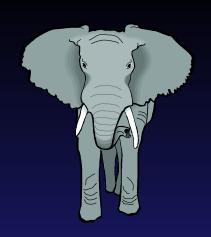


#### Seniors Should Have Rx Coverage

#### BUT

- Lots of Proposals
   different structures, different costs
- Lots of debate over *How Much* to change or reform Medicare

### Republican Position ---



Medicare Needs to be Reformed

and

Rx Coverage is Part of The Reform

### Likely Starting Point for Rx Discussion

"Tripartisan Bill" (\$370 b over 10 years)

- -- Subsidies Paid to Private Insurers
- -- Premium \$24 month; deductible \$250 ann.
- -- 50% coinsurance to \$3,450; 10% thereafter

#### Implications for Medicare

- Specifics of design are important
- Costs of new benefits always underestimated
- Long-term fiscal pressures remain serious

### What's Likely to Happen?

"Too Soon to Tell"



Lots of Interest, but ---

Any Rx proposal will be a tough sell

#### Major Medicare Reform???

- Won't be driven by the HI Trust Fund Current projections suggest solvency til 2029
- Linkage w/Rx coverage could drive reform
- If not linked, major Medicare reform will be

#### A Long Way Off!!!

#### Other Rx Issues ---

- Access to Generics
- Patent Protection
- Drug Reimportation
- Medicaid Actions

### Medicaid Spending Is Also Increasing

- Medicaid Spending 11% in FY 2001
  - -- Fifth year of spending growth acceleration
  - -- 9% growth per year expected over next decade

#### Rx Spending is Especially Big

```
19% in 2001
22% in 2000
18% in 1999
```



# States Are Responding To Fiscal Squeeze



For FY 2003 ----

- 40 States to limit Rx spending thru cost controls
- 29 States to or freeze provider payments
- 15 States to Medicaid benefits
- 18 States to J Medicaid eligibility

### Most Common Medicaid Rx Changes for FY 2003



- AWP Less Greater Discount
- More Rx Under Prior Authorization
- Preferred Drug List
- New / Higher CoPays
- Supplemental Rebates

#### Medical Liability and Tort Reform

#### Historic Republican Issue

- -- 108th Congress is best chance for passage
  - -- House Bill is a likely starting point

- Pain & suffering capped at \$250,000
- Punitive damages limited to \$250,000 or
   2x economic damages

#### As For The Uninsured ---



- -- Expect continued push for tax credits
- -- Long standing philosophical battle, between Dems and Republicans

But –

Trade bill showed compromises can occur

#### **Bottom Line**

- 2003 is the best year for action
- Still a closely divided Congress
- Deficit will make all spending bills a little tougher