COMPARING APPROACHES TO HEALTH REFORM

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Congress on the Un- and Under-Insured December 9, 2007 OUTLINE Understanding Differences Across Plans

- Commonalities
- Differences
 - Theory of Change
 - Mechanisms for Change
 - Priority Placed on the Problem

COMMONALITIES

- Harnessing information
 - Transparency and reporting
 - Comparative effectiveness of services
 - Health information technology
- Tackling chronic disease and promoting prevention
- Providing some type of assistance to the poor and sick

DIFFERENCES: Theory of Change

Conservatives:

- Gov't role excessive
 - De-regulate insurance
 - Limit public insurance
 - Capped gov't funding

Progressives:

- Gov't role necessary
 - Regulate insurance
 - Strengthen public insurance

Power of groups

Flexible gov't funding

- Power of individuals
- Values innovation and choice at every level
- Values security with choice of doctors

Mechanisms for Change

Conservatives:

• <u>Level</u> of change: Delegated

Progressives:

- <u>Level</u> of change: National
- <u>Instrument</u> of change: <u>Instrument</u> of change: Individuals Broad-based
- <u>Means</u> of change: Voluntary

 <u>Means</u> of change: Shared responsibility

Priority Placed on the Problem

Conservatives:

Progressives:

- "Best health system in the world"
- Flawed and failing

- Aggressive action will raise taxes and expand government
 Weak action will hurt people, budget and economy
- Behind taxes, immigration

• Top domestic policy issue ⁶