

# **Brief Update on Health Care Reform**



# APA Health Care Reform (HCR) Priorities

- ❖ Integrated health care
- ❖ Prevention and wellness
- ❖ Diverse psychology workforce
- ❖ Mental and behavioral health care at parity
- ❖ Elimination of health disparities
- ❖ Research and training
- ❖ Records protections in Health Information Tech.
- ❖ Involvement with consumers, families, and caregivers



## Initial Steps to Implement Health Care Reform (selected)

### Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

Requesting that the institute place a high priority on the evaluation of behavioral treatments and preventive interventions for health and mental health conditions

Include at least one psychologist on its Board of Governors



# Initial Steps to Implement Health Care Reform (selected)

## Nominating APA members to serve on

- ❖ National Health Care Workforce Commission;
- ❖ Board of Governors of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute;
- ❖ National Advisory Council of the National Health Service Corps



## Initial Steps to Implement Health Care Reform (selected)

Successfully advocated for increased funding for the Graduate Psychology Education Program.

APA's full request of \$7 million was included in the relevant House appropriations subcommittee bill; favorable provisions were included in the Senate appropriations bill as well.



## Initial Steps to Implement Health Care Reform (selected)

- ❖ Providing guidance to the Health Resources and Services Administration regarding the new geriatric education and training programs for which psychologists are now eligible
- ❖ Taking actions to enhance the role of psychology in new integrated health care initiatives, including outreach to primary care organizations

## Initial Steps to Implement Health Care Reform (selected)

The APA Practice Organization (APAPO) is seeking extension through 2011 of the 5% boost to Medicare reimbursement for psychotherapy.

APAPO also continues to be proactive on parity—on behalf of psychologists and their patients—as regulations are implemented, to ensure access to mental health services as intended by the law