Health Reform for Health Care Providers

Financial Stability
✓ Increases Primary Care Fees
  o Provides Medicare and Medicaid bonuses for primary care services furnished by primary care physicians, and higher bonuses if these physicians predominantly practice in health professional shortage areas to decrease disparities in primary care income, which is approximately half that of specialist income.
✓ Reduces Uncompensated Care Debt and Generate Business
  o Reduces uncompensated care by covering the uninsured and limiting out-of-pocket expenses for those with coverage. Without reform, uncompensated care for all health care providers has been estimated to reach $141 billion by 2019.
✓ Tax Credits for Small Businesses
  o Provides sliding scale tax credits to small businesses to help them offer health insurance coverage to their employees. Many health care providers are also small business owners.

Makes the Health Care System Work for Provider and Their Patients
✓ Cuts the Bureaucracy
  o Simplifies and standardizes paperwork to enable providers to focus on caring for their patients instead of dealing with bureaucracy. A national study found that a physician spends on average 142 hours and $68,274 annually interacting with health plans.
✓ Invests in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research
  o Invests in research to provide the evidence and tools providers need to enable more informed decision-making for themselves and their patients.
✓ Innovates with Advanced Primary Care Models
  o Provides investments for medical homes and other advanced care coordination and disease management models to help providers ensure that their patients do not fall through the cracks and receive seamless, efficient care.
✓ Promotes High Quality Care
  o Ensures that providers play a key role in establishing medically driven priorities and standards on quality, so that their patients receive the best care possible and providers who deliver high-quality care are justly rewarded.

Invests in the Health Care Workforce
✓ Invests in the National Health Service Corps
  o Increases funding for the National Health Service Corps to enable primary care providers to practice in underserved areas. Approximately 65 million Americans lack access to a primary care provider because of shortages in their communities.
✓ Increases Scholarships and Loan Repayment Programs
  o Invests in low interest loans, scholarships, and loan repayment programs to alleviate this financial burden and encourage students to enter health care fields. Provides incentives to encourage faculty to teach in medical, nursing, and dental schools. The high costs of education in health care fields often create large student loans, precluding some students from choosing a career in the health professions.
  o Excludes payments made under state loan repayment or loan forgiveness programs from taxable income for health care professionals serving in underserved or health professional shortage areas.