

# Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

It is an exciting time in health policy. With the upcoming presidential elections, our health system is being examined and debated on an unprecedented scale. Never before in recent memory have the people demanded so loudly for healthcare reform and been presented with two such radically different plans. For the first time we as a nation may be close to a honest discussion of not just our values, but also the practical implications thereof. Is healthcare a fundamental right? If so, to what level of care does that right extend? And in either case, who is going to pay the ever burgeoning costs of treatment? Is privatization the answer?

It is in the spirit of this atmosphere that we release this issue of the Harvard Health Policy Review. In these pages, you will find not only discussion on the most prominent issues in healthcare reform, but also new perspectives on and implications of reform. In this issue we examine the nature of mandated health insurance, possible reforms to care delivery, and the role that multinational corporations play in our the current system. We also reflect on how America's role in an international setting has shaped its health system and what lessons we can learn from observing other health systems.

So it is with great pride that we present to you the Spring 2008 issue of the Harvard Health Policy Review, which will hopefully offer some interesting new insights on the ever-growing debate over health policy.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Huang  
Editor-in-Chief