



# Presbyterians for a Better Georgia

## *Joining Faith, Service and Advocacy*

**We advocate for policies that will make Georgians safer, healthier and more secure:**

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## Access to Healthcare

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**Support increased access to healthcare for all Georgians.**

### **Many Georgians have no access to health care:**

- Access to healthcare is a critical part of keeping Georgians healthy, but nearly 2 million are uninsured.
- Georgia has a higher percentage of people without health insurance than any other state in the country except Texas, Alaska and Oklahoma, along with poor health outcomes for many measures.
- Rural hospitals across Georgia are closing due to high rates of uninsured patients.
- Struggling hospitals were burdened with \$1.74 billion in uncompensated care in 2015 due to serving people without health insurance.

### **PBG Health Advocacy Priorities:**

- Provide health insurance coverage to uninsured Georgians. Close the coverage gap for 240,000 low income Georgians who have no affordable health coverage options by accepting \$3 billion in federal dollars now flowing to other states.
- Support initiatives to improve access to mental health and addiction services and enforce the obligation of health plans to provide equal access to mental health and substance abuse care.
- Increase reimbursement rates for primary care services for health care providers under Medicaid.
- Improve access to oral health care for children, seniors and people with disabilities.

### ***Atlanta Presbytery Adopts Overture on Healthcare***

***The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta adopted an Overture in 2015 recognizing the Biblical imperative for Christians to “heal the sick and take care of our neighbor.” The Overture recognizes that the provision of health insurance coverage will increase life expectancy, reduce personal bankruptcy due to health expenses, provide greater financial stability for health care facilities, and significantly boost Georgia’s economy. The Overture resolved that the Member Churches of the Atlanta Presbytery urge the Governor and the members of the Georgia General Assembly to actively support policies to provide insurance to qualified uninsured Georgians and encourages member churches to contact their legislators to express their support to expand health insurance coverage in Georgia.***

**For more information, please contact:**

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