

## Player Bio

### SEN. RON WYDEN (D-ORE.)

- Born May 3, 1949, Wichita, Kan.
- B.A., Stanford University
- J.D., University of Oregon
- Co-founder, Oregon chapter of the Gray Panthers
- Director, Oregon Legal Services for the Elderly, 1977-1979
- House of Representatives, 1980-1996
- Senate, 1996-present
- Committees: Finance, Intelligence, Aging, Budget, and Energy and Natural Resources

### KEY LEGISLATION

The Healthy Americans Act (S. 334), guaranteeing affordable private health insurance for every American. The bill, according to its sponsors, would:

- Modernize the relationship between employers, employees and health insurance. Employers would “cash out” the current value of their health insurance and give the money to employees — touted as “the biggest pay raise in history” — and allow Americans to choose the health insurance plan that fits their needs. It would travel with them, regardless of employment status.

- Guarantee portable private health insurance for every American. Americans would choose from a list of state-approved private health insurance plans or their employer’s plan. All plans would provide health coverage as good as what Members of Congress receive, regardless of age, pre-existing health conditions or place of residence.

- Eliminate inefficiency and waste. By centralizing the administrative functions of enrolling in plans, the act would save more than \$29 billion, its backers say. The act would invest in health information technology, such as e-prescription and electronic health records, and encourage best practices.

- Focus on keeping Americans healthy. It would boost preventive care by giving insurance companies and doctors a financial incentive to keep their patients healthy. It also would offer lower premiums if patients participate in wellness programs.

- Strengthen Medicare. The bill would introduce incentives for primary care and participation in wellness programs.

- Utilize market forces to drive competition. The bill would allow greater transparency and competition, thereby forcing insurance companies to compete on price, benefits and quality.

### • Co-sponsors:

- Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.)
- Sen. Bob Bennett (R-Utah)
- Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.)
- Sen. Norm Coleman (R-Minn.)
- Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.)
- Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho)
- Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa)
- Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii)
- Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.)
- Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.)
- Sen. Joe Lieberman (ID-Conn.)
- Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.)
- Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.)
- Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.)