Gillibrand's Health Care Solutions Plan

To Increase The Quality Of And Access To The Health Care System, We Must Enact The Following Reforms:

Lower The Cost Of Health Care For Everyone:

- ∞ Focus on preventive care- rather than the emergency room- as the primary health care option by offering individuals, family or business the option to buy into Medicare at a rate they can afford
- ∞ Offer tax credits to small business owners to help insure their employees
- ∞ Allow the federal government to buy in bulk to offer the lowest costs for medicines
- ∞ Save administrative costs by mandating one standard form for all insurance providers for reimbursement
- ∞ Allow the importation of safe drugs from Canada

Improve Services For Rural Areas:

- ∞ Increase funding for preventive care, mental health and health education for rural counties
- ∞ Provide tax incentive and low-interest loans to health care professionals willing to serve in rural communities
- ∞ Subsidize medical students' education if they become primary care physicians and work in an area that is underserved
- ∞ Fight to keep financially struggling hospitals open when other options are not available in the area

Reform The Medicare Prescription Drug Program:

- ∞ Reduce the cost of prescription drugs by requiring Medicare to negotiate lower prices from drug companies, like the Veterans Administration does for veterans
- ∞ Close the gap in coverage for annual costs between $2,250 - $5,100 in order to prevent seniors from being denied coverage while they still pay monthly premiums
- ∞ Allow seniors to directly obtain their prescription drugs directly from Medicare
- ∞ Stop the billions in tax giveaways to the pharmaceutical companies

Protect And Improve Medicare And Medicaid:

- ∞ Ensure the budget does not decrease Medicare and Medicaid funding in order subsidize Big Oil and special interests
- ∞ Never vote to raid the Medicare trust fund to pay for discretionary spending
- ∞ Reform the Medicaid system to make the process more efficient and responsive
- ∞ Allow Medicare to cover early retirees
- ∞ Modify the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to cover every uninsured child

Long-Term Investments For A Healthier America:

- ∞ Increase funding for "first preventers" to prevent acts of bio-terrorism
- ∞ Increase federal funding for stem-cell research
- ∞ Eliminate paper records by having every health care provider use the same software that allows patients to easily access and update their medical records through a patient identification card
- ∞ Make college tuition tax deductible for student who focus on math, science and engineering
- ∞ Increase funding for medical research so that America is the world leader in medical procedures