



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ANTITRUST ENFORCEMENT POLICY STATEMENTS ISSUED FOR HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Attorney General Janet Reno and Anne K. Bingaman, Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division, were joined by Federal Trade Commission Chairman Janet D. Steiger and prominent members of Congress at the Department of Justice to announce steps to make health care more available and affordable to all Americans.

The Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission issued six antitrust enforcement policy statements to provide guidance to hospitals and health care providers to know whether they can enter into mergers and joint ventures without violating the antitrust laws. The policy statements will help alleviate uncertainty within the health care industry making it easier for mergers and joint ventures to take place, resulting in lower health care costs.

Assistant Attorney General Anne K. Bingaman said, "Many health care providers have delayed cooperative cost-cutting arrangements because of uncertainty about antitrust restrictions."

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