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**ÉPREUVE N° 3 : FACULTATIVE** : langue étrangère  
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## Healthcare reform: Obama signs bill into law

*Healthcare reform finally becomes US law as Barack Obama signs the historic legislation in White House ceremony*

The final, formal act that ends the long journey of US healthcare reform into concrete legislation happened just before noon this morning, when President Obama signed into law an \$938bn overhaul extending coverage for 32 million uninsured Americans.

"Mr President, you're the guy that made it happen... You've done what generations of great men and women have attempted to do, Republicans and Democrats," said Joe Biden, introducing Obama at the signing ceremony. [...]

The signing ceremony took place in a packed East Room of the White House before a crowd of congressional leaders, guests and members of the Kennedy family, including Vicki Kennedy, the widow of Senator Edward Kennedy, who had fought for years to reform America's healthcare system and remove many of the system's worst abuses. [...]

Before signing, Obama ticked off a list of the benefits that the new law would bring immediately. "This year, insurance companies will no longer be able to drop people's coverage when they get sick," he said, to loud applause.

The president paid tribute to the work of congressional leaders in "cobbling together" legislation under immense pressure, and had particular praise for Nancy Pelosi. "One of the best speakers the House of Representatives has ever had," said Obama, as the audience broke into a chant of "Nancy, Nancy".

[...]

In the traditional manner of American presidents, Obama signed the bill with 20 pens, using a different pen for each letter of his name and title so that the pens can be distributed as mementos to supporters. (One of the reasons Jimmy Carter was disliked by Congress was his habit of using a single felt-tipped pen to sign laws, and then putting it back in his pocket.)

*The Guardian, 23 March 2010*