

Health Care: Improving Access to Affordable Health Care

Access to quality, affordable health care is one of the most serious problems our country faces. Without access to affordable health care, our children cannot learn properly, parents cannot be as productive at work, and our seniors are forced to choose between food, shelter, or medical care.

46 million Americans are a single serious illness away from destitution because they lack health insurance. We must do more to provide insurance for those families, strengthen the Medicare system, provide health insurance to our low-income children, fund cutting-edge research into cures for diseases, and give patients the clout to challenge the decisions of health insurers. Only through action on these critical issues can we meet the pressing health care concerns of our nation.

I am a big supporter of Federally Qualified Health Centers, which provide health care to underserved populations regardless of the patient's ability to pay. By providing preventative screenings as well as treatments, these community health centers provide professional health care for those in our community. Local health care like this also reduces the need for more expensive emergency room care, lowering costs for taxpayers.

I have taken action to strengthen the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), known as FamilyCare in New Jersey. Specifically, I supported H.R. 3162, the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007 which expands health care coverage for New Jersey's children and their families. For our state, this means that thousands of children enrolled will maintain their current coverage. With additional federal dollars, New Jersey will also be able to provide health care for thousands of children who are currently eligible for the program but not yet enrolled. Please know that I will continue to fight for access to affordable health care for the residents of New Jersey.