

(Washington, DC) – Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) today opposed efforts to repeal health reform, which was enacted into law last year.

“Repealing health reform would be mistake. Instead of focusing on job creation or retirement security or tax relief, we are debating repealing a law that protects Americans from insurance company abuses and provides fairer and more accessible health care for children, veterans, seniors, employees, and employers,” Holt said.

Video of Holt’s floor statement can be found [here](#) .

“On Monday, we celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King fought for an America where everyone, regardless of their racial, ethnic, or class background, would have access to the American opportunity,” Holt said. “Access to health care was important to Dr. King, who said, ‘Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.’”

Speaking from the House floor, Holt shared examples of New Jersey residents who have benefited from health care reform and who would be affected by repeal. If health reform a 24-year-old in Kendall Park would become uninsured after losing coverage on his mother’s plan. An Eatontown man would not be able to get insurance due to his pre-existing condition; and thousands of seniors on Medicare would not be able to afford their life-saving prescription drugs.

Since health reform was enacted, New Jersey families, small businesses, and seniors are benefitting:

- 26,000 young adults were able to obtain health insurance through their parents plan.
- Lifetime limits have been eliminated for 5.3 million New Jersey residents

- 1.3 million New Jersey seniors are receiving free wellness visits and preventive services.

- 103,905 Medicare beneficiaries who were in the “donut hole” have received a one-time, tax-free \$250 rebate to help pay for prescription drugs. Further, those beneficiaries will receive 50 percent off on their brand name prescription drugs.

- An estimated 117,000 New Jerseyans retired before they were eligible for Medicare and obtain health coverage through their former employers. Health reform created the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program to help companies continue providing early retirees health insurance. So far, 166 employers in New Jersey have signed up to participate in the program.

- 144,000 New Jersey small businesses can be helped by the new small business tax credits.

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