

Dear Friend,

As I noted last week, an updated health reform bill – the [Affordable Health Care for America Act](#) - was introduced based on the deliberations by three House committees and feedback from constituents and others. I often am asked, when would the bill go into effect? While some provisions, including the creation of an insurance marketplace (or exchange), would be [phased in](#), many of the bill's features would take effect immediately to help the constituents I continue to hear from.

For example, one man wrote concerned that his 19-year-old son, who has learning disabilities and bipolar disorder, soon will no longer be covered by his parents' policy. "His family benefits will end as soon as he leaves school and it will be a long time before he can earn enough to support his ongoing medical expenses." As soon as the bill is enacted, health plans would be required to allow young people to remain on their parents' insurance policy through age 26.

A Somerset retiree told me that he and his wife have seen their retiree health benefits cut every year. "The latest [plan from his former employer] has such a high co-pay or deductible that our insurance doesn't pay for doctor visits until about November," he writes. Once enacted, the bill would help him and other early retirees through a program that supports companies offering employer retiree health plans.

Like many health professionals, a nurse practitioner from Pennington let me know her concern about the nursing shortage in New Jersey. She told me that many nursing schools are having difficulty finding the additional faculty to train students. The bill immediately would invest in training programs to increase the number of nurses, primary care doctors, and public health professionals.

Click [here](#) to read a fact sheet highlighting 11 other provisions that would go into effect immediately.

Town Hall Meeting in West Windsor

I will be holding a town hall meeting on Thursday, November 12 at 7 p.m. in West Windsor. The meeting will be held in the auditorium of [Grover Middle School](#), which is located at 10

Southfield Road. If you are unable to attend this town hall, I will be hosting other town meetings regularly. I announce the meetings in the eGenda and on holt.house.gov. And of course, you can always [write](#), call, or fax me. If you have any questions about the town meeting, please call me toll free at 1-87-RUSH-HOLT. Thank you, and I hope to see you in West Windsor.

Preventing Hate Crimes

Last week, President Obama signed into [law](#) the [Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009](#), historic legislation that will strengthen local law enforcement's ability to prosecute hate crimes based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability to the victim. Hate crimes are real. In 2007, there were 7,624 reported hate crime incidents, 16.6 percent of which were based on sexual orientation. Unfortunately, law enforcement have lacked the robust tools and support of the federal government to prevent and prosecute such crimes. It's long past time for Congress to pass this important legislation to help bring to justice those who would commit these heinous acts. Click [here](#) to watch my speech on the House floor.

Sincerely,

RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress

P.S. Just a reminder: I always want to hear from you, but please don't reply to this e-mail. Instead, please email me through my website at www.holt.house.gov, or call me at 1-87-RUSH-HOLT (1-877-874-4658) to let me know what's on your mind. Please also note that you may unsubscribe from this list by clicking on the "unsubscribe" link at the bottom of this email.