

On Sunday, I [voted for](#) the [health reform package](#) in the House of Representatives. Just as Social Security changed old age from a time of destitution in 1935 to a time of dignity and Medicare ensured that the basic health needs of seniors are met, with this bill's enactment we are recognizing that if you are an American, you can expect to have access to good health care.

Throughout this debate, I have talked with patients, seniors, doctors, nurses, small business owners, and others to learn their perspectives. I received and responded to thousands of letters and calls from Central New Jersey residents, representing a wide diversity of strongly held views.

What stands out are the stories I have heard, highlighting the fact that health care reform is about real people who are not well served by the broken insurance system, even people who used to think they had good health insurance. Once reform goes into effect, it will give families and small businesses more control over their health care.

Families with health insurance through their employers will benefit from caps on yearly out-of-pocket costs. Seniors will find that Medicare not only remains intact, but is improved – recipients will receive free preventive care and better primary care. Small businesses will have more health insurance options and additional support for their health insurance expenses. Patients with diseases such as diabetes or cancer will be able to obtain insurance without being turned away because of their preexisting condition.

The benefits of health reform will be felt [immediately](#) upon enactment of the health insurance reform package. For example, small business owners who provide insurance for their employees will receive tax credits, families will no longer face annual or lifetime caps on their insurance benefits, and seniors with high prescription drug costs will receive \$250 of additional assistance in their Medicare prescription drug plan.

It will do all these things while reducing the deficit by \$143 billion for the first ten years and by \$1.2 trillion in the next decade, according to the non-partisan, independent Congressional Budget Office.

When I consider any legislation, I listen to my constituents, carefully examine the entire bill and consider whether it would benefit my constituents. For this bill, I believe it will provide secure health coverage for nearly all families and improve our nation's economy. I would not support it otherwise.

Sincerely,

RUSH HOLT

Member of Congress