

Nearly two-thirds of Americans say that job creation should be Washington's top priority. Yet the new majority in the House has spent months on phony debates that are more about gaining political advantage than about helping our economy.

The good news is that, even as Washington has taken its eye off the ball, manufacturers have shown a path toward an economic renewal. Although U.S. manufacturing was in decline during the run-up to the Great Recession, it has bounced back noticeably. Last year alone, manufacturers added 152,000 new jobs, and the sector has now seen 21 straight months of growth. Let's not write any obituaries for manufacturing in our country or our state.

This month, [I am visiting manufacturers across central New Jersey](#) . These companies employ our neighbors in the manufacture of a wide range of products: everything from medical devices to specialty inks.

My hope is to hear ideas for concrete, actionable steps that Congress can take to build upon the recent resurgence in manufacturing and put more Americans back to work: things like supporting new infrastructure investment, closing tax loopholes for outsourcers, expanding science education, and providing businesses with incentives for new hiring. I hope you'll share your ideas, too, either by sending an e-mail at holt.house.gov or calling me at 1-87-RUSH-HOLT.

America's middle class was founded on the strength of our manufacturers. It's time to rebuild that foundation and renew our manufacturing sector.

Learn How to Apply for Federal Grants

Applying for federal grants can be daunting, and the confusion surrounding the process hinders many organizations from applying. I want to help explain this process so that you and your organization or business may take full advantage of available federal aid.

For your convenience, I will offer two sessions of Grants.gov: Find and Apply: on Monday, September 19, at the Mercer County Library System – West Windsor Branch (333 North Post Road, Princeton Junction), and on Thursday, September 22, at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters (125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan). Each workshop will run from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Space is limited. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Andrew Black of my staff at andrew.black@mail.house.gov or (609) 750-9365.

Average Medicare Prescription Drug Premiums Will Not Increase Next Year

Earlier this month, Medicare announced that the average premium charged to prescription drug beneficiaries will not increase in 2012. Given today's difficult economy, this news will help, in a modest way, to ensure that more New Jersey seniors can afford their needed medicines.

Medicare also announced that tens of thousands of New Jersey seniors are taking advantage of the new health care services guaranteed by last year's health care reform law. In total, 44,821 New Jersey seniors have received free annual wellness visits so far. A further 37,273 seniors with high prescription drug costs are receiving a 50 percent discount on brand-name drugs.

To learn more about how you can take advantage of these important new benefits, visit www.medicare.gov/share-the-health/

Sincerely,

Rush Holt
Member of Congress