

Davis: Impact of Health Reform Bill on the 7th District

Statement of Congressman Danny K. Davis

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For many years I have been in favor of a National Health Plan with everybody in and nobody out. I take this position because I don't believe that there is anything in life that is more important than being healthy.

I represent a Congressional District that is rich with health resources. We have more hospitals than any other district in the country, the largest medical center district in the country, four medical schools, a strong network of community health centers and ninety-two clinic sites. In addition, we have a large number of medical group practices, community mental health centers, research institutes and other forms of medical and health care. We train and supply places throughout the world with large numbers of physicians, nurses and other healthcare personnel. This legislation will support and enhance the continuation of these training and development opportunities.

Together, these bills — H.R. 3590, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and H.R. 4872, The Reconciliation Act of 2010 — provide the most far reaching health legislation this country has seen since the passage of Medicare and Medicaid. This legislation is affordable, promotes individual responsibility, requires employer responsibility, closes the Medicare donut hole, freezes Medicare Advantage payments in 2011, protects disproportionate share hospitals, and protects payments to primary care physicians.

This legislation protects the choice of individuals with disabilities who require an institutional level of care to receive care in their communities instead of institutions. It reduces fraud waste and abuse; it provides substantial funding to support and expand community health centers and seriously invests in minority serving institutions such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Pre-dominantly Black Institutions, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Native American, Asian American and Pacific Islander Institutions. It reforms student loans and takes some of the profit out for private lenders and puts it in the hands of students and not-for profit institutions.

Based upon an analysis by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, are the following direct benefits to the 7th Congressional District of Illinois as a result of the passage of this legislation:

- Improves coverage for 334,000 residents with health insurance.
- Give tax credits and other assistance to up to 158,000 families and 14,100 small businesses to help them afford coverage.
- Improves Medicare for 76,000 beneficiaries, including closing the donut hole.
- Extends coverage to 52,000 uninsured residents
- Guarantee that 11,500 residents with pre-existing conditions can obtain coverage.

- Protect 1500 families from bankruptcy due to unaffordable health care costs.
- Allow 60,000 young adults to obtain coverage on their parents insurance plans.
- Provides millions of dollars in new funding for 92 community health centers.
- Reduces the cost of uncompensated care for hospitals and other health care providers by \$222 million annually.

This legislation is good for the 7th District, it is good for Illinois and it is good for America.