

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, DC 20515-3518

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Ken Calvert

M.C.

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Dear Friends,

As you may know, President Obama delivered a joint address to Congress regarding health care reform on September 9, 2009. I had hoped to hear his intention to replace the current proposal (House bill H.R. 3200) and work with both sides of the aisle to craft improved legislation that includes many items on which all of us agree. Unfortunately, his speech simply stated more of the same rhetoric that we've heard over the past few months.

I agree with the majority of Americans on the elimination of exclusions for pre-existing conditions, removing barriers between states on purchasing health care, and making health care insurance portable. I was pleased to hear the President talk about medical liability reform. Frivolous lawsuits drive up insurance premiums and promote unnecessary and expensive testing, increasing health care costs for everyone. However, the pilot programs he announced will simply kick the can down the road. We must reform medical liability laws now.

I am still opposed to the idea of government-run health care. The President attempted to downplay the role of the "public option," but I believe the end result will be the same: a nationalized health care system that will eventually lead to fewer and more expensive private insurance options. The President's assertion that health care reform will be deficit neutral is simply not the case. The Congressional Budget Office, a non-partisan organization, has clearly stated that the House bill would add \$220 billion to the deficit over 10 years. After that, the costs continue to explode. If the President hopes to make his current proposal budget neutral, he will have to do this by creating billions more in cuts to vital programs, as well as raising and collecting new taxes.

Health care reform is too important to ram through Congress without debate. I think that a core bill should be crafted that reflects ideas on which Republicans and Democrats agree. At that point, Speaker Pelosi should allow all Members – regardless of party – the ability to submit amendments and request a "yes" or "no" vote. At this time, the Congressional Majority is preventing any amendments from being offered by the Minority, which presumes that only their ideas are acceptable. The public option is a contentious proposal. Rather than forcing it through, let's get every Member on the record and have an up or down vote on all the portions of the health care bill.

I would like to hear your thoughts on the health care reform bill, please visit my website at www.calvert.house.gov and fill out the Health Care Survey. The health care debate will continue to change daily, please sign up for my e-newsletters on my website so I can bring you breaking news from Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,

Ken Calvert
KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress



Support the Troops,
visit www.OurMilitary.mil



REP. CALVERT meets with senior citizens in the district to discuss legislation that impacts seniors.

P.S. Don't forget to Register to Vote! For Riverside County residents, visit www.election.co.riverside.ca.us.
For Orange County residents, visit www.ocvote.com.

HEALTH CARE REFORM: LET'S GET IT RIGHT!

Rep. Calvert Supports The Following Improvements to the Health System:

- Eliminate exclusions for pre-existing conditions and eliminate being dropped from your coverage or denied coverage due to illness;
- Increased emphasis on preventative care to catch and treat diseases early and increased funding for the National Institutes of Health to support the discovery of cures and treatments for the most expensive and fatal diseases afflicting Americans: heart disease, cancer, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and stroke;
- Refundable tax credits for all American citizens to give them improved purchasing power to buy a plan that best meets their needs;
- Remove barriers that prohibit purchasing of insurance across state lines and make insurance portable from job to job and place to place;
- Implement medical liability reform, modeled after California's successful MICRA reforms, allowing for unlimited economic damages while capping punitive damages at a reasonable level. This reduces the need for doctors to practice defensive medicine and lowers healthcare costs for everyone; and
- Make available to all Americans the same standard health benefit options available to Members of Congress, so all Americans have a wide range of choices.



REP. CALVERT meets with young constituents to discuss the importance of exercise and staying healthy.

Rep. Calvert Does NOT Support the Following Proposed Changes to Health Care:

- A "Public Option," Co-Op or any other new government-created plan that expands the U.S. government into the healthcare industry, promotes the rationing of care and saddles America's children with trillions in new government spending;
- Any legislation that does not specifically prevent taxpayer dollars from being spent on the funding of abortions in the U.S. or overseas or that does not include a conscience clause to protect the rights and convictions of health care professionals;
- Providing taxpayer-funded health insurance or health insurance subsidies to illegal aliens;
- Taking away Americans' power to choose the health plan that fits them best and negatively altering the sanctity of the Doctor-Patient relationship;
- New taxes on workers or small business that would take money out of the hands of hard working families and would eliminate jobs;
- Adding billions to the U.S. deficit and saddling future generations with debt.

Contact Representative Ken Calvert at one of the following addresses or through his website www.calvert.house.gov:

WASHINGTON, DC
2201 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-1986
Fax: (202) 225-2004

RIVERSIDE COUNTY
3400 Central Ave., Ste. 200
Riverside, CA 92506
Phone: (951) 784-4300
Fax: (951) 784-5255

ORANGE COUNTY
26111 Antonio Pkwy, Ste 300
Las Flores, CA 92688
Phone: (949) 888-8498
Fax: (949) 888-8524