



Dear Friend:

Since most people get their insurance through work, I'm leading the effort to develop solutions that provide incentives for businesses that don't offer health care to start doing so, and for those who do to improve coverage at a lower cost.

Health Care Solutions that Make Sense for Businesses and Employees

Small businesses owners need help providing health insurance for their employees. That is why I've introduced the Keeping Small Businesses Healthy Act (H.R. 118), to encourage employers to do more to offer health insurance to their employees. It provides a 60% tax credit on the cost of health insurance premiums to businesses with 25 or fewer employees (including the self-employed). Businesses with 26-100 employees would receive a 40% tax credit, and in order to qualify, all businesses would be required to maintain or improve the insurance benefits they currently provide without raising the employee's share of premiums.

Providing Access to the Same Health Care Coverage Congress Has

Every Oregonian should have access to the same quality of health insurance that members of Congress receive. That's why I support the Small Employers Health Benefits Program Act, which creates a health insurance pool just like the one Congress has for small businesses. This program would offer businesses and employees a choice of plans, and would also be open to self-employed people.

Fixing the Prescription Drug Benefit to Save Seniors Money

I also believe the new prescription drug benefit rules are too confusing and don't do enough to save seniors money. That is why I'm working to pass H.R. 376, a bipartisan bill that would allow Medicare to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies to get the best prices on drugs for seniors. I've also cosponsored bills to allow for the re-importation of safe, identical prescription drugs from Canada .

It's time for the Leadership in Congress to end the partisan bickering that has prevented real reform and to move towards realistic, common-sense solutions that will lower the costs of health care. I'll continue to work with my colleagues in Congress make sure that hard working Oregonians get the access to affordable health care they deserve.

Sincerely,

Darlene Hooley
Member of Congress