



Fighting for Quality and Affordable Healthcare

✓ Ensuring that All Children Have Access to Quality, Affordable Healthcare

Introduced Legislation to Ensure that Low-Income Children Have Access to Healthcare

- Congressman Patrick Murphy worked across the aisle with Congressman Tim Murphy (R-PA) to introduce legislation that ensures access to healthcare for low-income children across the country.
- H.R. 2496, the Children's Health Insurance Accessibility Act, eliminates unnecessary administrative barriers that currently block thousands of low-income children from enrolling in CHIP coverage. It exempts groups of children from CHIP waiting periods, which require that children remain uninsured for a certain period of time prior to being eligible for enrollment.

Proud Supporter of Legislation to Expand the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

- This bipartisan bill, signed into law by President Obama on February 4th 2009, expands Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to preserve healthcare access for the 7 million children currently covered and to expand the program to include an additional 4 million.

Proud Co-sponsor of the Children's Health Protection Act of 2009

- This bill (H.R. 1619) would prohibit health insurance companies and employers from denying coverage to children because of pre-existing conditions.
- Approximately 20% of school-aged children suffer from a chronic illness, putting them at risk of being denied coverage by insurance companies on the basis of having a pre-existing condition. Without medical coverage, children are likely to forgo badly needed care – making early identification of medical conditions, timely treatment of illness, and adequate management of chronic diseases nearly impossible.

✓ Protecting Medicare

Supporter of Efforts to Prevent Medicare Payment Cuts to Physicians

- Congressman Murphy requested that House leadership take action to ensure seniors have continued access to the doctors they know and trust by preventing a pending 21.5% Medicare payment cut for physicians in 2010.

✓ Expanding Research and Finding Cures

Proud co-sponsor of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2009

- Congressman Murphy is a longtime advocate of the ethical use of embryonic stem cell research and the promise it holds for the more than 100 million Americans who suffer from cancer, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, spinal cord injuries and other debilitating diseases.
- This bill (H.R. 873) would allow for federal funding of embryonic stem cell research, codifying President Obama's executive order and ensuring that research adheres to strict ethical standards.

Increase Funding for the National Institute of Health

- Stagnant funding for the NIH over the past five years has stifled the ability of our research facilities and academic institutions to conduct the medical investigations that could cure diseases such as cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's.
- Congressman Murphy supported the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which included an unprecedented investment of \$10.4 billion in NIH funding.
- Congressman Murphy voted in favor of the Congressional budget resolution for FY 2010, which supports President Obama's priority of increasing funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to \$6 billion.

✓ **Promoting Awareness and Early Detection**

Proud Co-sponsor of the Pancreatic Cancer Research and Awareness Act

- Pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer-related deaths in our country. This year alone, more than 37,000 Americans will be diagnosed with this disease and almost as many will succumb to it within months. Congressman Murphy believes that it's time to meet this disease head-on and fight back.
- This bill (H.R. 745) will establish a national Pancreatic Cancer Initiative to provide a greater focus on pancreatic cancer and give the National Cancer Institute the tools it needs to make earlier diagnoses, provide treatment options, and one day prevent this devastating disease.

Proud Co-sponsor of Legislation to Support Research and Early Detection of Breast Cancer

- As the son of a breast cancer survivor, Congressman Murphy believes strongly that the federal government needs to take an active role in helping research and fight this devastating disease.
- Congressman Murphy is a proud co-sponsor of H.R. 995, the Mammogram and MRI Availability Act, which would require insurance companies to pay for annual screening mammograms for women ages 40.
- He is also a co-sponsor of H.R. 1740, the Breast Cancer Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young (EARLY) Act of 2009. This bill would develop and implement a national educational campaign to increase awareness of the threats breast cancer poses to young women.

✓ **Promoting the Education and Retention of Critically Needed Healthcare Providers**

Proud Co-sponsor of the Nurses' Higher Education and Loan Repayment Act

- Our nation currently faces a shortage of over 200,000 registered nurses, the root cause of which is the growing faculty shortage at U.S. nursing schools. As many as one out of three qualified applicants is turned away from nursing programs due to the lack of qualified faculty to train them.
- This bill (H.R. 1460) would allow for student loan repayment for graduating nurses who commit to serving as full-time faculty at a nursing school.

Proud Co-sponsor of the Medical Economic Deferment for Students (MEDS) Act

- Congressman Murphy believes we need to ensure that the inability to repay medical loan debt does not drive badly needed, promising young health care providers away from the industry.
- This bill (H.R. 1615) would allow graduating medical students and eligible residents who cannot repay their loans to defer payment if they meet certain conditions.

✓ **Promoting the Latest Medical Technology**

Providing Incentives for Hospitals and Medical Providers to Adopt Electronic Medical Records (EMRs)

- Using a digitized system of medical records will improve patient outcomes by reducing medical errors and re-hospitalization rates. EMRs will also improve the quality of healthcare by allowing a single patient's doctors to communicate with each other and provide cohesive, coordinated care.
- Congressman Murphy supported the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which provided \$19 billion in financial incentives for health care providers to adopt certified EMRs.

✓ **Promoting Wellness and Health Lifestyles**

- Congressman Murphy supported the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which included a \$1 billion investment in a Prevention and Wellness Fund. This portion of the recovery act acknowledges that our health care system needs to place much greater emphasis on prevention, wellness, and self-care efforts.
- The Prevention and Wellness Fund addresses the prevention of chronic diseases, improves and expands immunization programs, and promotes evidence-based clinical prevention and wellness strategies.

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