

CONGRESSMAN DAVE REICHERT

STRENGTHENING HEALTH CARE FOR FAMILIES AND SENIORS

- ◆ **Leader on Health Care Reform:** As a Member of the Ways and Means Committee, voted against legislation which would reduce choice, increase costs, and put the government between doctors and patients (7.16.09, 11.7.09, 3.21.10).
- ◆ **Authored Legislation to Restore Assistance for Families' and Seniors' Health Expenses:** Introduced legislation to restore the 7.5 percent income threshold for out-of-pocket medical expenses, repeal the cap on the maximum annual contribution to Flexible Savings Accounts (FSAs), and repeal the ban that prohibits holders of FSAs and Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) from using money from their accounts to purchase over-the-counter (OTC) medicines. (H.R. 5936)
- ◆ **Co-Authored Legislation to Implement Health IT:** Helped introduce legislation encouraging the adoption of electronic medical records to prevent serious medical errors and reduce wasteful and duplicative health care costs (H.R. 4216, 12.7.09)
- ◆ **Reducing Health Care Costs for Seniors:** Helped introduce legislation that eliminates the 20% co-pay Medicare beneficiaries pay for mammograms and colonoscopies (H.R. 2291, 5.6.09)
- ◆ **Supports establishing a clear pathway for the introduction biosimilars:** Cosponsored legislation which creates a process for the approval of follow-on biologics while protecting patient health and safety, lowering health care costs, and providing incentives for biotech innovation. (H.R. 1548, 7/14/09)
- ◆ **Supports Home Infusion Therapy Coverage:** Cosponsored legislation to provide for Medicare coverage of home infusion therapy and home infusion drugs. (H.R. 574, 6/16/09)
- ◆ **Supports the Protection of Doctor/Patient Relationship:** Cosponsored the *Medical Rights Act* which would protect each patient's doctor relationship, the integrity of the medical profession and the right of Americans to choose the care they deem appropriate without federal delay or restriction. (H.R. 2516, 5/20/09)
- ◆ **Supports Medicare Beneficiaries Freedom to Choose:** Cosponsored legislation that would put seniors in control of their healthcare decisions by clarifying the use of private contracts by Medicare beneficiaries for professional services and to allow individuals to choose to opt out of the Medicare part A benefits (H.R. 3356, 7/28/09)
- ◆ **Supports the Medicare Patient Safeguards Act:** Cosponsored legislation that would urge the Medicare to be financially sustainable and that the application of comparative effectiveness research, should not deprive patients of medically necessary care solely due to its cost or limit access to needed health care services due to a patient's age, gender, ethnicity, or disability status (H.R. 3361, 7/28/19)

- ◆ **Promoting Health Care Tax-Fairness for the Self-Employed:** Introduced legislation to address an unfair tax on health insurance premiums for the self-employed. The bill would assist 420,000 sole proprietors in Washington State and over 21 million nationwide (*H.R. 1470 3.12.09*)
- ◆ **Covering the Uninsured:** Introduced a bill to provide states, schools, and community organizations with \$100 million in outreach grants to help enroll more eligible, low-income children in SCHIP and Medicaid. More than 50,000 uninsured children in Washington are eligible for these programs but not enrolled. It was included in the SCHIP compromise agreement that passed the House and Senate. (*H.R. 593, 1/17/09*)
- ◆ **Investigating AARP's Hidden Profit Motive:** Through a series of letters, hearing questions, and meetings, led the Republican charge questioning whether AARP has a hidden profit motive in advocating for \$160B in cuts to Medicare Advantage when it receives 38% of its revenue from United Healthcare and AARP-branding health products
- ◆ **Promoting Medical Research:** Lead cosponsor of an ongoing effort to increase funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to help find cures for debilitating diseases and chronic conditions (*Letters to Obey, 04/07; 04/08; 4/09, 3/10*)
- ◆ **Protected:** Medicare beneficiaries from over \$500 billion in cuts to the Medicare program. (*Ways and Means Committee 7.16.09, RC#887, 11.7.09, 3.21.10*).
- ◆ **Protected:** 133,000 Washington State seniors from losing their Medicare health plans by opposing over \$157 billion in Medicare cuts. (*RC#887, 11.7.09, 3.21.10*)
- ◆ **Protected:** hospitals from billions of dollars in Medicare cuts that could jeopardize seniors' access to care (*Neal-English Letter to Budget Committee, 2.6.08, 3.9.07, 3.21.10*).
- ◆ **Supported** legislation that would lower health care premiums for American families and small businesses. (*Roll Call 886, 11.7.09*)
- ◆ **Supported** establishing Universal Access Programs to guarantee access to affordable health care for those with pre-existing conditions. (*Roll Call 886, 11.7.09*)
- ◆ **Supported** legislation that would help end junk lawsuits and curb defensive medicine by enacting medical liability reforms. (*Roll Call 886, 11.7.09*)
- ◆ **Supported** legislation giving small businesses the power to pool together and offer health care at lower prices, just as corporations and labor unions do. (*Roll Call 886, 11.7.09*)
- ◆ **Supported** legislation that allows Americans to shop for coverage from coast to coast by allowing Americans living in one state to purchase insurance in another. (*Roll Call 886, 11.7.09*)
- ◆ **Supported** legislation that creates new incentives to save for future and long-term care needs by allowing qualified participants to use HSAs to pay premiums. (*Roll Call 886, 11.7.09*)