

Congressman Dave Reichert  
Protect and Strengthen  
Health Care

<http://reichert.house.gov/HealthCare/>

## STRENGTHENING YOUR HEALTH CARE

### **AFFORDABILITY**

*No family should ever have to choose between putting food on the table and bringing their children to the doctor. Skyrocketing health care costs are forcing companies to lay off good workers just to stay in business. We must make health care more affordable for individuals, families, and employers by extending substantial tax relief to offset rising costs, curbing wasteful spending in government health programs, and enacting meaningful medical liability reform.*

1. Immediate Financial Assistance: Provide new tax credits to low- and modest-income Americans, pre- and early-retirees, and employers to purchase health care plans and offset rising medical and administrative costs. Also extend tax benefits and savings plans to those individuals and families who do not currently have employer-provided insurance but purchase health insurance on their own.
2. Enroll the 13 to 16 million American children and adults who are currently eligible for Medicaid but who are not enrolled in it, providing needed care for those who simply cannot afford it.
3. Implement comprehensive medical liability reform that will reduce costly, unnecessary defensive medicine practiced by doctors trying to protect themselves from overzealous trial lawyers.

### **AVAILABILITY**

*It is appalling that Americans can pick from a menu of choices to insure their cars but the vast majority still have no choice of health insurance. We must empower individuals and families to choose the health care plans and options that best suit their unique health care needs.*

1. Decouple Jobs and Health Insurance: Focus on individuals and families so Americans can keep health insurance and take it with them regardless of a change in or loss of a job.
2. Recognize that not all high school and college graduates are able to find a job that offers health insurance after graduation. By allowing dependents to remain on their parents' health policies up to the age of 25, we can reduce the number of uninsured Americans by up to 7 million.
3. Use new and existing programs to guarantee that all Americans, regardless of pre-existing conditions or past illnesses, have access to affordable coverage.

### **QUALITY**

*We must encourage innovation, invest in medical research, and use scientific advances to transform our health care system to focus on prevention, creating a wellness system, not a treatment system.*

1. Promote prevention and wellness by giving employers and insurers greater flexibility to financially reward employees who seek to achieve or maintain a healthy weight, quit smoking, and manage chronic illnesses like diabetes.
2. Reward high-quality care, instead of encouraging health care providers to order more and unnecessary services.
3. Use new and innovative treatment programs to better coordinate care between health care providers, ensuring that those with chronic diseases receive the care they need and do not continue to fall through the cracks.

# Congressman Dave Reichert Protect and Strengthen Health Care

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## PROTECTING YOUR HEALTH CARE

*Health care is intensely personal, and touches every American. Health care is not about bureaucratic "systems" and "payment flows" and complicated regulations in government jargon. Health care is about people. Quality health care is the foundation for our children to grow and prosper, just as it is the basis for seniors to enjoy comfortable retirements.*

*I believe that if you like the health care you have, you should keep it, and that there is no place for government bureaucrats in the doctor's office. I am committed to protecting you from:*

- A government-run "public plan" that leads to rationing of health care, skyrocketing costs, reduced choices, and long waits for both basic health needs and life-saving procedures.
- Government bureaucrats interfering in decisions made between you and your doctor.
- Your access to critical care being denied by a government agency's arbitrary ruling on "cost".
- A government mandate to buy health care or pay a penalty. When families are struggling to make ends meet, the last thing the government should do is penalize them for tough personal and financial choices.
- Raising taxes on American families to subsidize a \$1,100,000,000,000 plan that provides care to non-citizens and those who already have private health insurance.
- Increasing pressure on our sputtering economy even as the deficit hits \$1,000,000,000,000 for the first time in America's history.



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