

JIM GERLACH

6TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS, INSURANCE, AND
GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND
CONSUMER CREDIT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC MONETARY POLICY AND
TECHNOLOGY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

308 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4315
FAX: (202) 225-8440

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3806

UKRAINIAN CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR
PROFESSIONAL SPORTS CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR
LAND CONSERVATION CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR

November 2, 2009

Mr. F Darnall Daley
1751 Garfield Ave
Reading, PA 19610

Dear Mr. Daley:

Thank you for contacting me with your views on health care reform. I wanted to take the opportunity to respond to your comments on this very important issue.

I believe that the time has come for us to take on the challenge of reforming the health care system in this country. There is no doubt that health care costs are rising and many Americans of all ages are struggling with these increased costs. During these tough economic times, the need to address health care reform is vital.

As you may know, there are numerous Members of Congress, as well as President Obama and his Administration, that have been working on various proposals. I have been very involved in drafting one of these proposals with fellow moderate Republicans and we believe it will lower costs and expand access without compromising the doctor-patient relationship, jeopardizing the quality of American medicine or raising taxes on the American people. The proposed Medical Rights and Reform Act will make health insurance more affordable and give all Americans more options and control over their health care decisions. Additionally, our proposal will improve the quality of care by focusing on prevention and wellness, employing technologies that reduce medical errors, and promoting medical breakthroughs. I have attached a summary of this proposal for your information.

I am very happy that this proposal incorporates bipartisan legislation that I have introduced with my colleague, Democrat Representative Ron Kind from Wisconsin, H.R. 2350, the proposed Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Act. This legislation would make health insurance more affordable, predictable, and accessible for our small businesses and the self-employed. The SHOP Act would offer tax incentives to encourage states to reform poorly functioning small group insurance markets and would encourage the development of state purchasing pools backstopped by a voluntary, nationwide pool. We need to focus on ways to make health care more affordable and accessible for our small business owners and entrepreneurs and I believe that the SHOP Act will accomplish this.

The Democratic Leadership in the House of Representatives has put forth a health care reform proposal in the form of a 1,107-page bill, H.R. 3200. I do not support this bill as

DISTRICT OFFICES:

BERKS COUNTY
840 NORTH PARK ROAD
WYOMISSING, PA 19610
(610) 376-7630
FAX: (610) 376-7633

CHESTER COUNTY
111 EAST UWCHLAN AVENUE
EXTON, PA 19341
(610) 594-1415
FAX: (610) 594-1419

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
580 MAIN STREET, SUITE 4
TRAPPE, PA 19426
(610) 409-2780
FAX: (610) 409-7988

it is currently written. We cannot afford its massive tax and spending increases in this time of recession. This bill also contains a "public option plan," in other words, a health care plan that is controlled and run by the government. I do not believe that bureaucrats should be making health care decisions for our citizens, or controlling the medical decision-making process in a way that will delay or deny services for you or your family. It is not the proper role for the government to be telling Americans what doctors they can see, how many x-rays they can get in a year, or what prescriptions they can take. I believe it's imperative to preserve the sacred doctor-patient relationship and prevent the government from interfering in those decisions.

I believe that, as Congress pursues changes to our health care system, we should work together in a bipartisan way to produce health care legislation that will provide high quality, affordable and accessible care for all Americans.

Again, thank you for contacting me about health care reform. If I can be of any assistance to you or your family in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Gerlach", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress

JG:af

P.S. Please visit me on the internet at <http://www.gerlach.house.gov>.