

TIM MURPHY
18TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
HEALTH
COMMERCE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION



CO-CHAIR, STEEL CAUCUS
CO-CHAIR, 21ST CENTURY HEALTH
CARE CAUCUS
CO-CHAIR, MENTAL HEALTH CAUCUS
CO-CHAIR, FRIENDS OF IRELAND
SUBURBAN CAUCUS

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

WEBSITE: murphy.house.gov

January 27, 2009

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

As you continue to focus on the challenges our nation faces in these trying times, I believe that we can meet these challenges that lie ahead by working together. Your ongoing commitment to developing health care initiatives is a shared goal of mine. I want to offer my strong support and assistance in working on the reforms needed to truly transform our nation's health care system.

A fundamental problem with healthcare is that too much money and too many lives are wasted. The cost of health care in the United States has ballooned to \$2.1 trillion per year, with the price exceeding what many families and employers can afford. The impact on the federal budget continues to grow exponentially with Medicaid and Medicare expenses outpacing sustainable revenue. While the more publicized debate on healthcare reform focuses on expanding insurance coverage with government, business and individuals paying the bills, the issue remains that fundamental reform is needed to bring down these costs and improve care. As an example, 7,000 people die annually from medication errors alone, with up to 98,000 deaths every year from medical errors in hospitals (*Institute of Medicine*). The federal government can lead the way to reforming these problems by focusing on "what" we are paying for and not just "who" is paying.

Throughout my 30-plus years as a health care provider, I have focused my energy on reforming the system to improve access, quality of care and choice for patients. Serving on the as faculty at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, running my psychology practice, as a State Senator and my three terms in Congress, I am excited to build on the reforms we've been able to accomplish and tackle the opportunities that lie ahead.

I have worked closely with my colleagues John Dingell, Patrick Kennedy, Grace Napolitano and Gene Green on a wide range of reforms aimed at improving patient safety, and quality: electronic medical records, integrated mental health care, and coordinated disease management and expanding community health centers. There are many other areas of prevention, eliminating unnecessary re-hospitalizations and eliminating hospital based infections which all together can cut some \$500 billion dollars of waste out of the system and save thousands of lives.

These are just a few areas of reform. There are many areas where we can expand this bipartisan approach if we are truly interested in improving the healthcare for all Americans. I stand ready to work with you, along with congressional leaders from both sides of the aisle, on a healthcare reform agenda to ensure patient access, patient choice, patient safety and quality of care for all Americans.

Sincerely,


Tim Murphy
Member of Congress

322 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2301
FAX: (202) 225-1844

504 WASHINGTON ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15228
(412) 344-5583
FAX: (412) 429-5092

2040 FREDERICKSON PLACE
ROUTE 136
GREENSBURG, PA 15601
(724) 850-7312
FAX: (724) 850-7315