



What Health Care Reform Means for You:

Great benefits are coming to the Bronx and Queens from the America's Affordable Health Choices Act

Congress is currently debating the America's Affordable Health Choices Act, a health care reform plan that will provide significant benefits to the 7th Congressional District of New York, if enacted:

- **Help for 8,500 local small businesses.** Under the plan, small businesses with 25 employees or fewer and average wages of less than \$40,000 qualify for tax credits of up to 50% of the costs of providing health insurance. There are nearly 8,500 small businesses in the 7th District that could qualify for these credits – helping small businesses in Queens and the Bronx better manage the cost of providing health coverage to their employees.
- **Help for seniors struggling with their drug costs.** Each year, 7,300 seniors in the 7th District hit the “donut hole” in the Medicare Part D program, which forces them to pay the full cost of their prescription medications until their total out-of-pocket spending reaches an unbearably high level. Under this plan, seniors would receive immediate relief – seeing the cost of brand-name drugs cut in half and the gap in coverage for drugs drastically reduced and eventually eliminated.
- **Relieving the burden of uncompensated care for hospitals and health care providers.** In 2008, health care providers in the district provided \$96 million worth of uncompensated care. This care was provided to individuals who lacked insurance coverage and were unable to pay their bills, and the cost of their care was paid for by the city, state, and federal government. Under this plan, the cost of uncompensated care would be virtually eliminated because more people would have health care coverage – saving Bronx and Queens hospitals and taxpayers money every year.
- **Coverage of the uninsured.** There are 102,000 uninsured individuals in the 7th District, a whopping 15% of the district. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that nationwide, 97% of all Americans will have insurance coverage when this plan is enacted. This means that over 82,000 people in the 7th District who currently do not have health insurance will get coverage.
- **No deficit spending.** The cost of health care reform under this plan is fully paid for, both by making current Federal health programs more efficient and through a surtax on the income of only the wealthiest individuals. This surtax would not affect 99.8% of taxpayers in the 7th Congressional district.

HAVE SOME IDEAS ON HOW WE CAN REFORM HEALTH CARE?



Congressman Crowley wants to hear your thoughts, questions and ideas about how to make sure health care reform is done right.

Visit <http://www.crowley.house.gov> to let your voice be heard!