

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Contact: Sheila Dow Ford, 717-919-1853

Telephone Contact for sheilaforcongress: 717-919-8648.

Additional information: contact Les Ford at 717-919-8648 or lesford@comcast.net

Sheila Dow Ford Lauds and Supports Today's Historic Health Care Reform Vote

Sheila Dow Ford, Democratic Party candidate for U.S. Congress in PA-17, expresses her appreciation and strong support of today's historic vote for health care reform in the U. S. Congress.

Ms. Dow Ford calls the bill a litmus test on American values, and applauds the White House and Congress for making affordable health care a highest priority.

Dow Ford notes that the bill expands coverage to 32 million Americans, and provides critically important benefits to residents of Pennsylvania's 17th congressional district. .

In PA-17, Dow Ford notes the bill will provide the following important benefits:

- * improve coverage for 444,000 residents with health insurance;**
 - * provide tax credits and other assistance in obtaining coverage to up to 168,000 families and 13,000 small businesses ;**
 - * improve Medicare coverage for 120,000 beneficiaries;**
 - * close the Medicare donut hole;**
 - * guarantee that 7,300 residents with pre-existing conditions obtain coverage;**
 - * protect 99 families from bankruptcy due to unaffordable health care costs;**
 - * allow 47,000 young adults to obtain coverage under parents' plans;**
 - * provide millions in new funding for 7 community health centers;**
 - * reduce the cost of uncompensated care for hospitals and other providers by \$59 million annually.**
- (source: March 2010 Comm. On Energy and Commerce)**

Dow Ford states that the bill provides affordable high-quality health care for the middle class.

She criticizes incumbent congressman Tim Holden, who voted against the bill, stating that Holden's "No" vote must serve as a referendum on his lack of leadership, and demonstrate an appalling lack of connection with and concern for his constituents.

Dow Ford notes that Tim Holden has been a "NO" vote throughout the entire nine month debate on health care reform. "Tim Holden has never been present and accountable to his constituents on health care reform," states Dow Ford. "Rather, Holden has let us down, again and again. He has shown that he does not care about the hundreds of thousands within PA-17 who are positively impacted by this historic bill. He has not shown leadership. Mr. Holden has been missing in action, MIA, and I encourage all to express our discontent at the ballot box on May 18, by voting "No" on Tim Holden. Enough!"

Dow Ford's positions on various policy issues are set forth at her website: sheilaforcongress.com