

Monday, March 29, 2010

Dear Friends:

It feels good to be on the right side of history!

Just a week ago our president signed into law our nation's first comprehensive health care legislation, and we, here in PA-17, did our share to take the vision to reality. Thank you.

On March 9, 2010, I walked with thousands of others in Washington, D.C., representing Labor organizations from across the country, to ask Congress to say "Yes" to health care reform. And, as is often the case when people of good will gather for the common good, our voices were heard.

From the start, health care reform has been a major part of my campaign agenda. That is why I am pleased and proud to stand with the president and other leaders around the country who showed courage and commitment to our many families, friends and neighbors, who will benefit from this historic bill.

I want to tell you about how the new law directly helps residents of PA-17.

- * Improves coverage for **444,000** insured residents;
- * Gives tax credits and assistance to up to **168,000** families and **13,000** small businesses to help with coverage.
- * Improves Medicare for **120,000** beneficiaries, and close the donut hole;
- * Extends coverage to **18,500** uninsured residents;
- * Guarantees that **7,300** residents with pre-existing conditions can obtain coverage;
- * Protects **900** families from bankruptcy due to unaffordable health care costs;
- * Provides millions of dollars in new funding for **7** community health centers;
- * Reduces the cost of uncompensated care for hospitals and other providers by **\$59 million annually**. (March 2010, U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Energy and Commerce)

The Congressional Budget Office reports the law will pay for itself, and provide the added benefit of reducing the deficit by over 100 billion in ten years, and about 1 trillion over the second decade.

Each of us knows someone who will be helped by this law. It represents the better America for which we all work and to which we all aspire.

My campaign is about this better America, and I am asking you to spread the word, and to join the cause! Thank you!

Sheila Dow Ford, PA-17 congressional candidate