

Eshoo Introduces Comprehensive Health Care Reform Legislation

Washington, DC – This week, Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D-Palo Alto) joined a bipartisan coalition of members of the House and the Senate to introduce the Healthy Americans Act, legislation to provide affordable health care coverage for all Americans.

“The Healthy Americans Act will create a true universal healthcare plan that will cover every American for less than we spend on healthcare today. In fact, the CBO has concluded that this plan will be budget neutral by 2014 and will produce a cost savings thereafter.

“In a country as wealthy in research, talent, and resources as the United States, it’s unacceptable that our health care system ranks dead last among other major industrialized nations for quality, access, and efficiency.”

The Healthy Americans Act would ensure that every American can afford quality, private health insurance. The majority of people who have insurance today for themselves and their families are insured through their employer. This arrangement limits employees to policies that their employer picks for them. Under the new plan, every American will be able to choose from a wide range of insurance plans, including the very the same plans offered to Members of Congress.

Each state, with financial support from the federal government and insurance companies, will establish a Health Help Agency (HHAs). HHAs will lower administrative costs by coordinating payments from employers, individuals and government and they will also provide consumers with unbiased information about competing private health plans and determine premium reductions to ensure that every American can afford their health plan.

With the resources to compare plans based on quality, cost and service, individuals—rather than their employers—will be empowered to choose the health plan that works best for them and their families. Employers who wish to continue offering insurance directly to their employees will be allowed to do so as long as the plans are comparable to HHA offered plans.

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