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Health Care

Physician Access for Medicare Beneficiaries:

The lack of long term solutions to the problem of Medicare reimbursement rates puts into jeopardy the care our seniors on Medicare receive. A number of physicians already have stopped accepting new Medicare patients, or have stopped serving Medicare patients all together. Some say Medicare reimbursement rate cuts would be so devastating to their practices that they may have to close their doors. Obviously this affects not only the physicians, but patients as well.

On November 19, 2009, Heath voted in favor of H.R.3961, the Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act of 2009, which passed the House. This legislation would permanently fix this problem by restructuring how physicians are reimbursed for Medicare, instead of continuing to temporarily fix the problem by merely delaying the cuts. However, the permanent fix was not included in the final version of H.R. 3961 that was signed into law in February 2010.

More recently, Heath has supported a number of actions that have temporarily delayed cuts to physician reimbursement rates including: H.R. 4691, which was passed into law in March 2010; H.R. 4851, which was passed into law in April 2010; and H.R. 3962, which was passed into law in June 2010.

For Medicare to work for our nations' seniors, it must not penalize doctors or patients. It must allow seniors' continued access to their choice of high-quality physicians.

Medicare Fraud:

Our health care system is laden with waste, fraud and abuse. Medicare is not excluded. Heath believes that significant changes must be made to remedy our broken, inefficient, and wasteful system. For the millions of Americans who rely on Medicare to receive the best care possible, we must eliminate waste, fraud and abuse and create an efficient and effective Medicare program.

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Paid for by Heath Shuler for Congress