

SCOTT GARRETT
5TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

RANKING MEMBER
CAPITAL MARKETS, INSURANCE, AND
GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES
SUBCOMMITTEE

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER
CREDIT SUBCOMMITTEE

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3005

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137 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4465
FAX: (202) 225-9048

266 HARRISTOWN ROAD
SUITE 104
GLEN ROCK, NJ 07452
(201) 444-5454
FAX: (201) 444-5488

93 MAIN STREET
NEWTON, NJ 07860
(973) 300-2000
FAX: (973) 300-1051

www.house.gov/Garrett

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Washington, DC! Whether you are a Tea Party Patriot, an American for Prosperity, or simply a fed-up taxpayer, I thank you for making the trip this morning, and I consider it an honor to stand alongside you in your protest against larger government, higher taxes, and infringed liberties.

One year and one day ago, President Obama was elected with a mandate for accountability, transparency, and change. Today, we join together in opposition to a 1,990-page health care bill that was written behind closed doors, is a sweetheart deal for special interests, and costs \$2.24 million per word. What's more, Speaker Pelosi is now attempting to force a vote within days of introducing the \$1 trillion bill. In short, what we have seen since Inauguration Day has been unaccountable business as usual.

I cannot understate the importance of your rally this afternoon or the magnitude of your cause. It is thanks to organizations like yours that the Speaker was unable to sneak this bill past an unwitting public. You have spurred a national debate on this important issue. I am confident that with your support – and the millions across this nation who have stood up to a government takeover of health care – we in Congress can stop this bill and return to the drawing board to work on a bipartisan bill that is portable, affordable, sustainable, effective, and innovative.

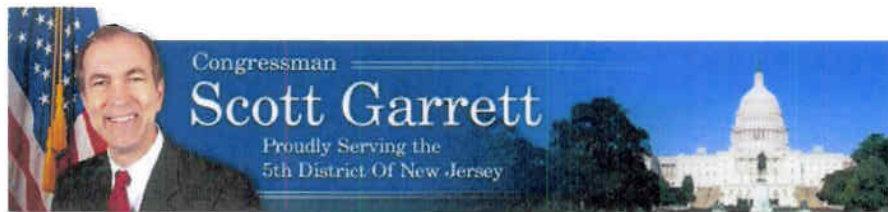
After your rally, I invite you to join me and some of my staff in the Budget Committee Hearing Room at **2:00 pm**. The Committee Room is located in **Room 210** on the Second Floor of the **Cannon House Office Building**. Also, please feel free to come by my office, Cannon 137, anytime before or after to introduce yourself and enjoy some light refreshments. If you are unable to attend, be sure to visit my website at www.house.gov/garrett. **There you can send me an e-mail, read my public statements on health care, get information on constituent services, and sign up for my weekly e-newsletter, the Garrett Gazette.**

Thank you once again for letting your voice be heard. It is my honor to serve you in Congress, and I pledge to you to oppose any reform proposals that expand the role of government, add to our deficit, or place bureaucrats between you and your doctor. I hope to see you later today.

Sincerely,



Scott Garrett
Member of Congress



Congressman Garrett and Health Care Reform

Over the past year, various proposals to reform our nation's health care system have been hotly debated in the halls of Congress and living rooms across America. As Congress considers these proposals, I will be guided by five principles for health care reform: to make American healthcare 1) Portable, 2) Affordable, 3) Sustainable, 4) Effective, and 5) Innovative.

Portable Health Care

- Our current health care system, where the vast majority of families and individuals receive their health care through their employer, is outdated in the 21st Century. Today, our workforce is much more mobile, more entrepreneurial, and is more likely to be employed by a small business.
- An ideal health care system for the 21st Century would allow individuals' healthcare plans to be portable—that is, allow individuals to keep their health care coverage through a change in jobs. This would have the added benefit of providing a safety net for those who become unemployed or disabled.

Affordable Health Care

- Health care costs are eating up a greater portion of the family budget each year. As health care becomes more and more expensive, it becomes less and less affordable, leaving many people without access to insurance. New Jersey in particular has some of the least affordable health insurance in the nation.
- I support a number of proposals to make health care and health insurance more affordable, such as expanding the use of Health Savings Accounts (HSAs); allowing people to purchase insurance across State lines; allowing individuals and small businesses to band together and purchase insurance through community groups and trade associations; ending the tax discrimination against purchasing insurance through the individual market; and cutting down on the practice of defensive medicine by enacting medical liability reform.

Sustainable Health Care

- The long-term unfunded liability of the nation's entitlement programs is the most serious fiscal challenge facing America today. Rising health care costs are the largest driver of this future debt burden: approximately \$56 trillion. Health care reform must address this spending problem and can not add to the already unsustainable debt burden facing our children and grandchildren.

Effective Health Care

- Effective health care means getting the care you need when you need it, and effective health care decisions are best made by patients working in consultation with their doctors. In countries where the government seeks to promote effectiveness by regulating health care benefits, this unfortunately leads to either ineffective treatments or rationed care and waiting lists.

Innovative Health Care

- The United States leads the world in innovation when it comes to new medical devices, prescription drugs, and medical procedures. Other countries do not spend as much as we do on medical research or enact price controls to limit the amount of research spending that private companies can effectively do. It is imperative that we preserve our status as medicine's leading innovator in the world.