

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

March 25, 2009

Help Your Community Improve Access to Health Care

Co-Sponsor the Community Coalitions for Access and Quality Improvement Act

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join us as co-sponsor of H.R. 1614, the Community Coalitions for Access and Quality Improvement (CCAQI) Act. This legislation would provide grants to community health access coalitions to implement best practices proven to reduce health care costs, achieve better health outcomes and improve access to health care for uninsured and low-income Americans.

H.R. 1614, the Community Coalitions for Access and Quality Improvement (CCAQI) Act builds on the success of previous federal investments in 250 community health access coalitions over the last decade and incorporates lessons learned from former Healthy Community Access Program (HCAP) grantees. Under HCAP, grantees leveraged \$6 for every federal dollar invested and provided access to health care to an additional 6.2 million individuals while generating \$2 billion a year in savings for health care purchasers nationwide.

CCAQI would help 600 communities across the nation to implement and manage proven programs to reduce health care costs and increase efficiencies, including best practice programs that utilize technology and joint planning to:

- Educate consumers about program eligibility and facilitate enrollment;
- Reduce inappropriate Emergency Room use by coordinating referrals to specialty care and mental health services;
- Support the primary care provided by Community Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics by organizing medical, mental health, and dental providers who care for the uninsured;
- Maximize access to free and reduced-price prescription drugs;
- Prevent the erosion of insurance coverage offered by small employers; and
- Improve the health status of low-income consumers of health care.

We encourage you to join us in this effort to improve access to health care for uninsured and low-income Americans. If you would like additional information or wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Abigail Pinkele with Rep. Gene Green at abigail.pinkele@mail.house.gov (5-1688) or Greg McIlvaine with Rep. Zach Wamp at g.mcilvaine@mail.house.gov (5-3271).

Sincerely,


Gene Green
Member of Congress


Zach Wamp
Member of Congress