



**Progressive  
Maryland**

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**HEALTH CARE  
FOR AMERICA NOW!**

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## **MARYLAND HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA NOW THANKS SEVEN MARYLANDERS FOR CHAMPIONING HEALTH CARE REFORM**

*Maryland Representatives Led the Way from Start to Finish*

**Baltimore, MD** – Today the Maryland members of [Health Care for America Now](#) (HCAN) – the largest health reform campaign in American history – issued a statement to thank the six Maryland Representatives -- plus a seventh Marylander -- who voted in support of the historic health reform measures passed by the House of Representatives last night.

Matthew Weinstein, Maryland HCAN Coordinator and Progressive Maryland Federal Issues Director:

“From start to finish, Maryland’s Congressional delegation has been leading the way forward toward passage of landmark health reforms. Our state’s over-representation among the House leadership was visible on our television screens last night and will be recorded in the history of this extraordinary accomplishment. Those six Representatives who voted yes – Elijah Cummings, Donna Edwards, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, Dutch Ruppersberger, John Sarbanes, and DCCC Chair Chris Van Hollen -- make us proud to be Marylanders, as does Baltimore native Nancy Pelosi, the first woman to serve as Speaker of the House.

Now the Senate needs to keep its word and pass the reconciliation bill, and we are confident that it will do so this week.

The reforms will yield benefits for all Americans that are both immediate and long term. Insurance company rescissions and denial of insurance to children for pre-existing conditions will immediately be a thing of the past. Seniors will get prescription drug relief immediately, and young adults will now be able to stay on their parents’ insurance until age 26. As the legislation is fully implemented in the coming years, all Americans will benefit from new cost controls, coverage expansion, affordability tax credits, insurance regulations, Medicare solvency, and so many other beneficial aspects of the legislation.

Yet at the same time we are cognizant that certain elements of reform such as the public option that is both popular and effective in controlling costs, promoting competition, and guaranteeing access to quality care, according to the Congressional Budget Office, did not make it into the final House-Senate compromise. We expect that the absence of the public option will be felt in the coming years and that it will need to be revived as costs rise faster than they otherwise would and as private, for-profit insurers try to find new ways to game the system, especially under the new state-regulated insurance exchanges.

Finally, we saw the true colors of health reform’s opponents in their ugly protests over the weekend, as they hurled racial slurs and bigoted epithets at Democratic members of Congress. Let this be a lesson to all, Democrats, Independents, and Republicans, about the direction these extreme right-wingers seek to take our country.”

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