

RAHALL

Weekly Report

"HEALTH CARE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED"

by Congressman Nick Rahall

Scheduled for action on the House floor this up-coming week, is HR 3021, legislation that would provide health care to those Americans who are unemployed and without any health care coverage.

The large numbers of out-of-work individuals in southern West Virginia, would greatly benefit from this bill, of which I am a co-sponsor.

Under HR 3021, each state would be entitled to receive an allocated amount of funds, or at a state option a lesser amount, for the health insurance effort. Funds would be allocated among the states based on a three-part formula: one-third of the total number of unemployed persons; one-third on the number receiving unemployment compensation; and one-third on the number of have exhausted regular unemployment benefits during the previous year.

The situation that this legislation addresses is becoming all too familier. The President says that the economy is beginning to "sparkle", but his so-called trickle-down economics is not providing health care to those who are without work, or an income.

The health care program outlined in HR 3021, takes into account the stretched budgets of many of the individual states, and allows the states to set eligibility requirements as well as the duration of the program.

The National Governors' Association supports this measure, as do many of my colleagues in the House and Senate, and I am confident that it will be approved soon in the Congress.