

TAPE FOR WEEK OF MAY 9

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

AN IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE, THAT I AM CO-SPONSOR OF, IS MOVING SWIFTLY TOWARDS ACTION BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THE MEASURE IS, HR 2552, HEALTH CARE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.

THIS BILL ADDRESSES THE PROBLEM THAT WE HAVE BECOME ALL TOO FAMILIER WITH: THE LOSS OF HEALTH INSURANCE PROTECTION BY THE WORKER WHO HAS BEEN LAID OFF.

IN FAMILIES WITH ONLY ONE BREADWINNER, THIS OFTEN MEANS THAT THE WORKER, THE SPOUSE, AND THE CHILDREN ARE COMPLETELY VULNERABLE TO THE HIGH COSTS OF HOSPITAL AND PHYSICIAN CARE.

ACCORDING TO THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE, A STARTLING 14 MILLION AMERICANS, INCLUDING 4 MILLION CHILDREN, HAD NO HEALTH PROTECTION IN FEBRUARY.

THIS IS SIMPLY AN UNACCEPTABLE STATE OF AFFAIRS, AND THAT IS WHY PASSAGE OF THIS LEGISLATION WILL ADDRESS AN IMMEDIATE NEED AND ENCOURAGE LONG-TERM REFORM TO ASSURE THAT WE NEVER AGAIN EXPOSE THIS MANY UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE TO TOTAL MEDICAL DEFICIENCY.

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.