



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: KENT KEYSER
Acting Press Secretary
Phone: (202) 225-3452

A T T E N T I O N : K E N W A R D

STATEMENT OF U.S. REP. NICK RAHALL

The feed back is supportive of universal health care reform. However, some are concerned about the prospects of so-called global budgeting and rationed care. In addition, others would prefer that if regional alliances are established, that they be voluntary.

I have also heard from people who are concerned about what would be included in a basic benefits package. Coverage of long term care, mental health services, including treatment for substance abuse, and chiropractic services are benefits which many wish to have included in the health care package. Medicare beneficiaries are supportive of including a prescription drug benefit in that program.

Because we are a rural state, with a growing but still sluggish economy, there is not the usual marketplace for so-called managed competition. Our economy is based on small businesses and they have concerns over affordability, loss of new jobs or loss of increased wages for workers if small businesses are mandated to cover employees based on a percentage of payroll or another basis. One way to get over these obstacles is through a single-payer program, for which there appears to be fairly strong support.

My people are fairly positive about the need for reform -- they do see a crisis -- but it is hard to define because it differs for the elderly who want long-term care and coverage of prescription drugs, and the younger family is looking for the best, affordable child care they can get -- and it isn't lost on me that both these groups -- the elderly and the young family are both on the low-income end of the scale of affordability. So they want and need security of knowing health care is always there and no one can ever take it from them.

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Coman - Ken Ward w/ Gazette is doing a piece on healthcare for their '94 forecast. Wants to know what WV'ians are saying to the delegation.

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↑ JUST/birdie/GAZETTE.2

We have received about 1050 calls & letters on healthcare

Do you want to call him

Ken Ward's # (304) 348-1702

JD
what's
this
coded
I need
ASAP