

Cman-I faxed this to Erin Kelly.

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Statement of U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall

"Throughout my discussions with residents of the 3rd District, health care was only one of the issues discussed and usually I had to bring up the subject."

"People expressed the most concern about there being continued ability for an individual to choose their own physician or medical provider and allowing increased access to affordable health care.

"I believe Congress will and should address this year the issues on which there is general agreement on healthcare reform.

"Specifically, withholding coverage from an indvidual because of one's pre-existing medical condition, of portability coverage -- so that should a person become ill, they cannot lose coverage if they leave their job, encouraging states to set up voluntary alliances to help small businesses bargain for better insurance rates, and insuring choice and access to affordable care."