

Dear Friend,

There is a national discussion going on right now about health care and I need your perspective on this critical issue.

Much of the talk is about the uninsured in America, some is about the underinsured, but I think we're missing the point.

To put it simply: we're all being ripped off.

Americans are spending \$2 trillion a year on health care, twice as much as the rest of the industrialized world. And yet, despite the piles of cash we put toward our health, we're falling behind in some basic health measures:

- Life expectancy for Americans is 45th in the world -- behind Bosnia.
- Our infant mortality rate ranks 28th in the world - behind Cuba.
- Despite all the money we pay for health care, the leading cause of personal bankruptcy is unpaid medical bills.

To top it all off, our health insurance companies are raking in a \$30 billion annual profit.

It's this simple: no matter what kind of health care you may have, you are paying more for less.

One of the biggest challenges Congress will confront this year is how we proceed on health care. And I want to hear your thoughts. I encourage you contact me through my website ([click here](#))

. You can also watch my latest video blog ([click here](#)) to hear more of my thoughts on health care.

Thanks and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Steve Israel
Member of Congress