

Dear Friend,

Last night, I held a live telephone town hall with constituents to answer questions and listen to concerns about the proposed health insurance reform legislation. I thought it was a productive forum for discussion and debate.

If you were unable to participate in this conversation, [click here to listen to the audio version of the telephone town hall.](#)

In evaluating the health insurance reform proposals, I am focused on two priorities:

First, lowering the cost of health care for Long Islanders: according to Long Island's Dowling College, premiums for employer-sponsored insurance on Long Island increased by 80 percent over the last ten years. This is simply unsustainable.

Second, from a consumer perspective, I want to make sure we protect your health care.

If you have health care and you're healthy, you might not think you need protection, but my office gets calls all the time from people who are told they need a procedure, only to discover it will not be covered...sometimes only when they get the bill.

For me, health insurance reform is an issue of basic fairness. Long Island families are paying far too much for too little care and coverage -- and deserve quality care at a more affordable price. For more information on health insurance reform, please visit my website at <http://israel.house.gov>.

Sincerely,

Steve Israel
Member of Congress