

Dear Friend,

Few debates have stirred as much passion on both sides of the issue as the conflict over health insurance reform. Every President and Congress for the past hundred years has talked about it. And a few moments ago, we passed it.

I voted for this bill not for the President, the Speaker or my Party. I voted for it because it is the largest investment in middle class economic security in memory. It is good for our district, good for our state, and good for our nation.

Under the bill, in our congressional district alone:

- 485,000 of my constituents will be protected from insurance company rip-offs like lifetime and annual caps and shortage of care;
- 81,000 families and 21,000 businesses will receive tax credits so they can buy health insurance coverage, and;
- 29,000 people without insurance (including young adults and people who were laid-off) will be able to obtain it.

Frankly, the people I represent have been evenly divided on this bill. I understand that, because there's been a lot of misinformation and misrepresentations ("death panels" for example). To help you understand exactly what is in the law, how it will work, and how it will affect you, please visit my website at <http://israel.house.gov>. You can access a copy of my speech supporting passage, frequently asked questions, and a chronology of how the law will work between now and 2020.

Now that this bill has passed, it is essential that we focus on rebuilding jobs in a recovering economy. I look forward to working with you on that and other issues.

Sincerely,

Steve Israel
Member of Congress