



CONGRESSMAN
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Committees:

**Energy and Commerce
Committee**

Health Subcommittee

Telecommunications and the
Internet Subcommittee

**Foreign Affairs
Committee**

Chair, Western Hemisphere
Subcommittee

Europe Subcommittee

Middle East and South Asia
Subcommittee

DEAR NEIGHBOR

Since I entered Congress, I have worked to change the health care system in America.

I have written and supported legislation to create a system where people can find affordable, quality health care when they get sick, lose their jobs or have jobs that do not provide health care benefits. I have opposed cuts in federal funds for health care.

I know the impact of rising health care costs; it affects all Americans. I believe that every American must have affordable, high quality health care. There are 16 million Americans under sixty-five years old who do not have health insurance. To provide affordable, quality health care for all Americans, I have worked to establish a national health insurance program.

As a senior member of the House Subcommittee on Health, my efforts include writing and working to pass legislation to improve health care services. I have prepared this report to update you on some of my recent actions.

As always, I ask that you continue to send me your opinions, suggestions and views on these and other critical issues.

Eliot L. Engel, Member of Congress

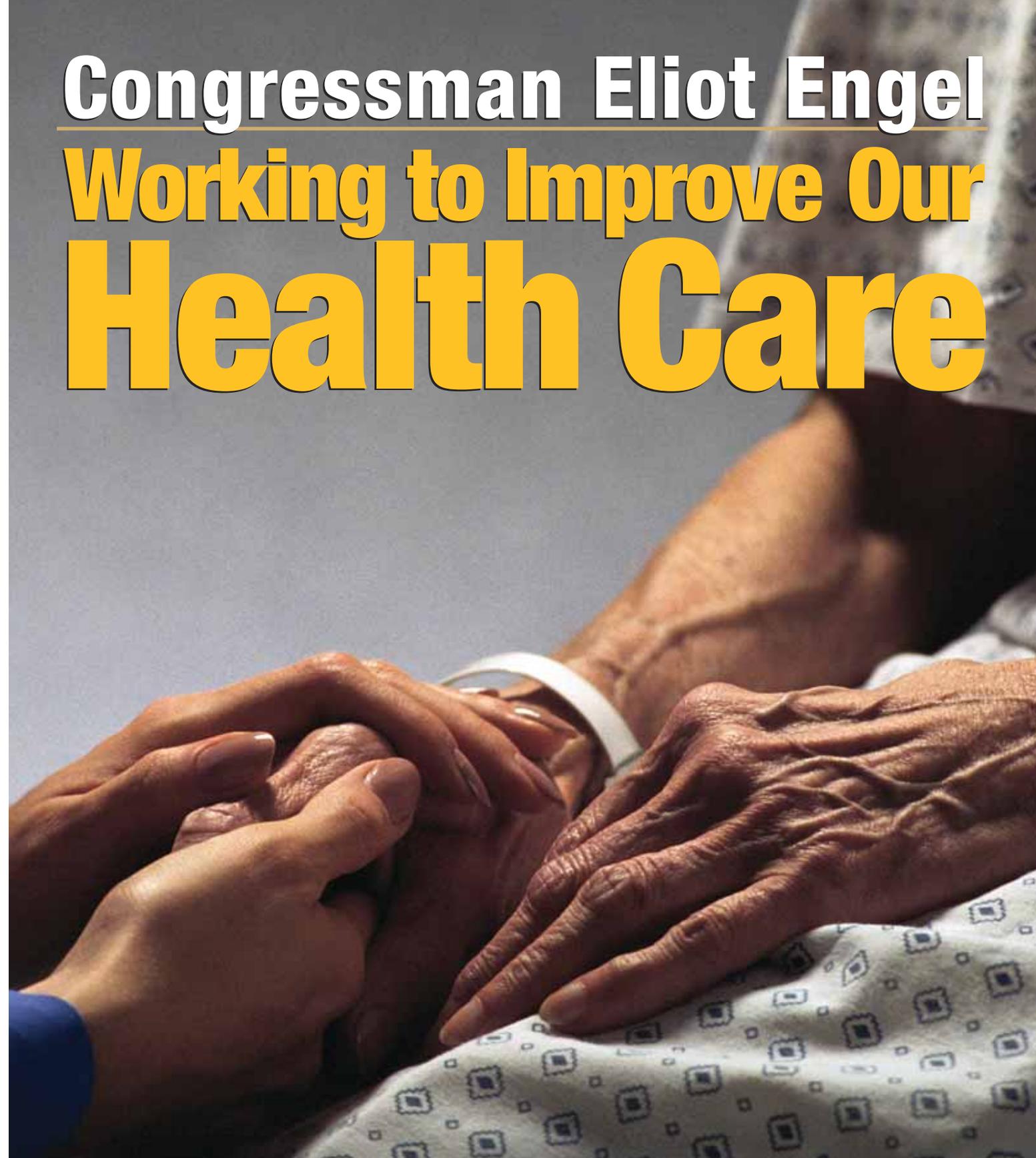
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US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3217

Official Business

Presorted Standard

Congressman Eliot Engel Working to Improve Our Health Care



STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (SCHIP)

The House of Representatives recently approved the new version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) after the earlier version had been vetoed by President Bush.

"We must bring health care insurance to 4 million more children and continue it for the 6 million that are now enrolled.

"We cannot let a generation of children face the risk of being ill and unable to afford treatment. There is no point in having world-class health care if you cannot afford it," Engel stated.

The children's health care program, known as Child Health Plus in New York, covers nearly 400,000 children in our State. The program provides them with comprehensive health care coverage and has reduced the number of uninsured children in our State by forty percent.

"If SCHIP does not become law, these children will be without health care," Engel stated.

The legislation Engel supported does not expand eligibility for the SCHIP program; it maintains current law eligibility but provides for increased outreach and funding to identify and enroll the 30% of children who are eligible but not enrolled.

It also makes sure it will have funds to serve children for the next five years.

CONGRESSMAN ENGEL: THE STOP TUBERCULOSIS NOW ACT OF 2007

To fight the mounting global tuberculosis crisis, the House of Representatives passed Congressman Eliot Engel's Stop Tuberculosis Now Act in November.

"Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the world's greatest killers and is still a serious problem in our nation," Engel stated. He has pointed out that over 300 people at a Bronx hospital were recently exposed to an individual with TB, and an airline passenger with a drug resistant strain exposed hundreds earlier this year.

Engel's legislation would allocate funds to combat TB in America and throughout the world.

LEGISLATION PASSED TO MONITOR AND INCREASE THE SAFETY OF OUR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

In July, the House of Representatives passed legislation co-sponsored by Congressman Engel to establish a new Food and Drug Administration (FDA) program to monitor the safety of drugs after they are on the market.

The legislation increases penalties for drug companies that violate safety standards and imposes strict conflict-of-interest provisions to make sure decisions are not based on the personal financial interests of those serving on FDA advisory panels.

Engel is also working to expand the testing of drugs and health care products manufactured outside of America to prevent dangerous drugs and other products from being sold in our nation.

FUNDS TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Congressman Eliot Engel has worked to obtain millions in Federal funds for health care services in The Bronx, Rockland and Westchester.

The funds he recently secured included two cancer research grants for Montefiore Medical Center totaling \$458,836 from the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

A \$768,477 grant was also obtained recently for the Bronx Community Health Network.

ACTING TO HAVE QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

Congressman Eliot Engel is a co-sponsor of the American Health Security Act of 2007 that would create a single payer system providing health care coverage to all Americans regardless of ability to pay.

The legislation would provide for health care coverage paid largely by the federal government and administered by the states.

An American Health Security Standards Board and Quality Council would be established to oversee the program and insure quality health care services.

"We need universal health care for all Americans," said Congressman Eliot Engel. "Health care cannot be determined by the size of one's pocketbook. Health care in our country should be a right, not an option. It is a right all must have access to."

CONGRESSMAN ENGEL'S ALS (LOU GEHRIG'S DISEASE) REGISTRY ACT

Congressman Eliot Engel's legislation to create a national Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's Disease) registry to help find a cure for this fatal disease recently was passed by the House of Representatives. The US Senate version of the legislation has 66 co-sponsors.

ALS is a fatal disease that affects motor nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Engel's legislation would create a single national patient registry to collect information on ALS for research, disease management and the development of standards of care to enhance our efforts to find a treatment and cure.

The ALS Association stated that it "and the entire ALS community greatly appreciate the efforts of Representative Eliot Engel who championed this vital legislation. It will benefit the patients of today and future generations."



Congressman Eliot Engel receiving the National Association of Public Hospitals Safety Net Award from Larry Gage, President of the NAPH. Engel was honored for his work in the health care field and particularly for introducing "The Public and Teaching Hospital Preservation Act." Also pictured are Gladys Dixon, a member of NYC Health and Hospital Corporation's (HHC) Community Advisory Board, and Rabbi Lenny Guttman, NYC HHC.

THE PRESERVE OUR PUBLIC AND TEACHING HOSPITALS ACT

Engel's Preserve Our Public and Teaching Hospitals Act would stop proposed regulations that would cut \$4 billion or more in Medicaid funding for hospitals. It would also stop new regulations that would result in billions of dollars in cuts to teaching hospitals that are educating the next generation of medical professionals.

The legislation has been endorsed by the American Hospital Association, Federation of American Hospitals, National Association of Public Hospitals, the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, Health Association of New York (HANYS) and Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA).