

Health Care

Health

H.R. 2563 Bipartisan Patient Protection Act

Representative Sanchez understands the concerns patients have with the quality of their health care. The Patient's Bill of Rights was introduced with the goal of improving patient choice and increasing health plan accountability. As originally proposed, the bill included provisions that would guarantee the patient's right to choose his or her own health care professional, the right to appeal a denied claim to an impartial third party, and the right to coverage for emergency care. However, the final version of this bill that was voted on did not provide enough protection for patients. Representative Sanchez will continue to support legislation that improves the quality of healthcare for patients and increases health plan accountability.

Medicaid

Representative Sanchez supports maintaining the 150 percent Medicaid Upper Payment Limit (UPL) for California's hospitals, private safety net hospitals, children's hospitals and teaching hospitals. She has signed letters to Secretary of Health Tommy Thompson and to the leadership of the House of Representatives leadership urging the UPL to stay at 150 percent. The higher UPL is important in order to address the higher costs of care associated with treating low-income populations that often have multiple and complex health problems. In addition, a cut in the UPL will undermine California's ability to ensure the availability of a ready and effective emergency and trauma system in the wake of a natural or other disaster.

Medicare

Millions of senior citizens depend on Medicare+Choice (M+C) plans for health care. Reducing payments to Medicare providers does not take into consideration a disproportionate increase in the cost of health care. Representative Sanchez opposes any further cuts in the payments to Medicare providers and supports restoring Medicare funding. She recognizes the importance of bipartisan support for immediate steps to recalibrate the payments for M+C plans.

Health Professions

Representative Sanchez understands that there is a shortage of health care providers. For this reason, she has co-sponsored the Nurse Reinvestment Act (HR 1436). This bill will promote the nursing profession, encourage individuals from diverse backgrounds to enter the nursing profession, and award grants to increase the number of nurses. The Act also establishes a program that awards scholarships in exchange for service in areas with nursing shortages