

June 29, 2009

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -- U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) today held a roundtable with health care leaders and advocates from across western Pennsylvania to discuss reforming America's health care system. Congressman Altmire's Health Care Advisory Board is comprised of leaders in the health care industry, including doctors, nurses, hospitals, health insurers, pharmacists, and long-term care providers. As the co-chair of the New Democrat Health Care Task Force -- a coalition of moderate Democrats committed to modernizing America's health care system -- Altmire is helping to shape the health care reform legislation that is currently making its way through Congress.

“This year, we have an historic opportunity to put reforms in place that will lower health care costs for all Americans and make it easier for people to get quality, affordable health insurance,” Altmire said. “I met with health care leaders from across western Pennsylvania today to listen to their views. As Congress debates this important legislation, I will continue to talk to western Pennsylvania health care providers, families, and small businesses, so I can ensure that their needs and their ideas are being heard.”

Earlier this year, Altmire introduced a key health care reform proposal that will help to improve quality of care and lower costs. The Quality FIRST Act (H.R. 1776) modernizes the current Medicare reimbursement system by tying hospital reimbursements to the quality of care provided, rather than simply to the number of visits, services, and procedures performed. The Congressional Budget Office estimated in December that this policy could save the federal government billions of dollars. For more information on the Quality First Act, click [here](#) .