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“No Discrimination in Health Care Act” – H.R. 5449

This essential legislation will guarantee access to affordable care for every citizen by bringing an end to the discriminatory practice of allowing insurance companies to deny life-saving medical coverage to citizens due to any pre-existing medical conditions.

Our Constitution protects all citizens against discrimination, and it is time we apply this established principle to health care.

The No Discrimination in Health Insurance Act also establishes a competitive and transparent health care marketplace by requiring all insurance companies to openly disclose their prices and charge every citizen within the region the same fee for the same service – just as restaurants do when they hand you the menu and then charge every customer the same price for the same service.

The essential elements of this necessary legislation are: (1) No Discrimination due to pre-existing conditions, (2) Open Disclosure of all prices, and (3) Every Citizen is allowed to Pay the Lowest Price available. These ideas must be included in any successful comprehensive health care reform legislation.

At this very early step in the process, I am pleased to have the encouragement and support of many of my freshman colleagues, AFSCME and Families USA. I am looking forward to presenting this bill and these ideas in a Congressional hearing this spring.

Our nation’s health care crisis is the most important challenge we face. It shall not be an easy task, but it is a battle well worth taking on for my patients cannot hold their breath any longer.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,
Steve Kagen, M.D.