

Good morning – my name is Dr. Valerie Arkoosh – I am a physician from Wyndmoor and president-elect of the National Physicians Alliance. The National Physicians Alliance represents over 20,000 doctors from all specialties across the United States and we are 100% committed to fighting for guaranteed, high quality affordable health care for all.

Let me start by thanking Congresswoman Schwartz for her personal leadership in this fight – the Congresswoman has been fighting for high quality, affordable health care for her constituents throughout her entire career and we are lucky to have such outstanding representation in the United States Congress.

I also want to thank all of you for being here today. Your efforts today will make a tremendous difference in our community.

In July, The House of Representatives introduced the America's Affordable Health Choices Act (HR 3200) – this landmark legislation will make high quality, affordable health care available to all Americans and give our patients the peace of mind that their coverage will be there when they need it, no matter what. It will create a new public health insurance option that will force private health insurance companies to compete on what matters most – patient satisfaction and quality.

Now, those opposed to health care reform have been telling a lot of absolutely horrible lies about what is in this bill. You might be asked about some of these lies today. So, lets be clear: Reform does not mean

Rationing, death panels, the federal government monitoring your bank account, cutting Medicare benefits or cutting Veterans benefits.

As you knock on doors today, be sure to tell our neighbors what health care reform means for all of us. It means you can't be denied coverage for a pre-existing condition, or dropped if you get sick. It means putting health-care decisions where they belong - in the hands of you and your doctor. It means lower costs, a cap on out-of-pocket expenses, tough new rules to cut waste and red tape, and a focus on PREVENTING illness before it strikes. So what does health care reform really mean? Quality, affordable care you can count on.

Here are some more facts for you. Here in the 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional district, if the House bill was enacted:

1. 14,700 small businesses would qualify for tax credits to help them provide health insurance for their employees
2. 11,300 seniors would have help with the costs of their drugs when they hit the donut hole, and in a few years, the donut hole would be eliminated.
3. 33,000 people who currently do not have health insurance will receive coverage
4. The surtax that would pay half the cost of this reform would affect only 1.6% of households in the district.

As a doctor, I can tell you that our patients can't wait another day for health care reform. Too many patients are losing their employer sponsored coverage or are having their care delayed or denied by their health

insurance company. Too many doctors are spending more time on the phone with insurance companies than in the exam rooms with our patients. Doctors are united in our support for health care reform. Organizations totaling 500,000 doctors support health care reform! The National Physicians Alliance is proud to be one of those organizations.

As you head out today, walk proudly, speak the truth about reform and let our neighbors know that doctors and patients agree – we need health care reform, we need it now, and we can't wait!