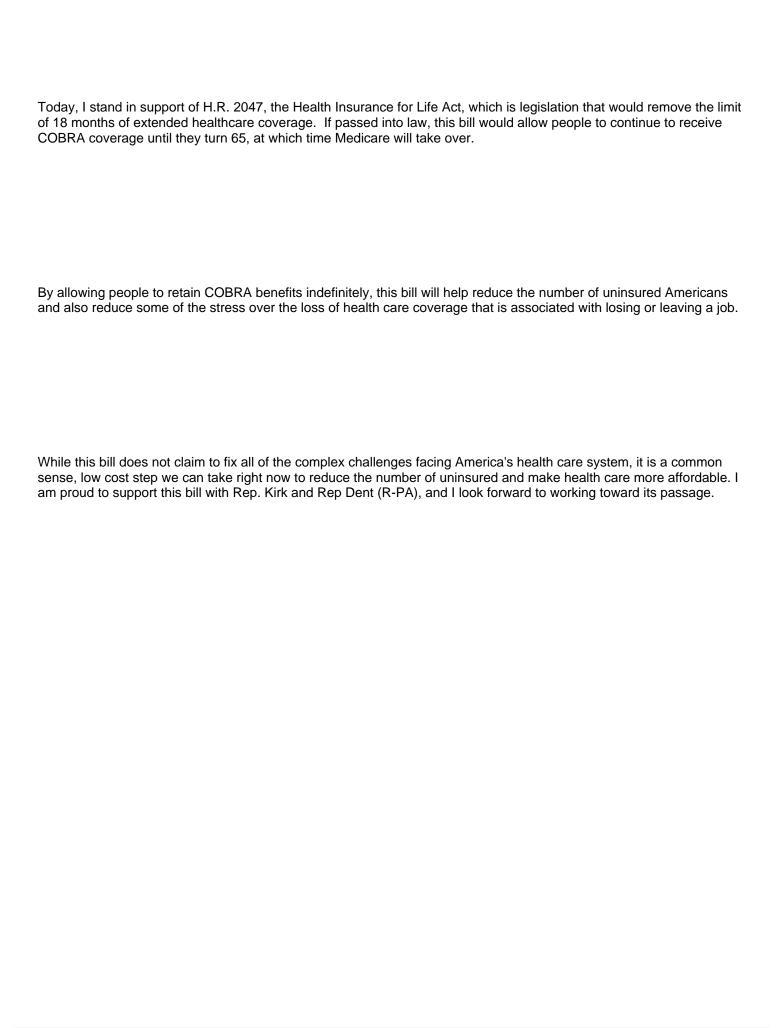
(May 29, 2008) Lipinski In Support of Health Care for American Workers Health Insurance for Life Act (H.R. 2047) Press Conference Statement~ May 29, 2008 Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Prentice Women's Hospital Our economy has changed and today American workers can no longer count on having only one job for their entire career. In fact, American workers now average more than 10 jobs in a career. With the economy slowing down, more and more hard working Americans are seeing their jobs cut or their hours reduced. And as nearly 60% of the American workforce obtains health insurance through their place of employment or the employer of a family member, when a worker loses their job, they not only face a loss of wages - they also face the loss of health insurance. This is a big problem - The Center for Economic and Policy Research estimates that 4.2 million Americans could lose their insurance this year alone, and that's on top of the 47 million Americans already estimated to be without health insurance. Congress first addressed this problem in the 1980's by passing into law the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, or COBRA (signed into law in 1986). This legislation allows individuals to retain their health insurance for the first 18 months after losing or leaving a job. COBRA has helped keep the number of uninsured Americans down, ensuring more people have access to quality health care.

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