

HEALTH  
CARE  
CAUCUS

# ABOUT THE CAUCUS

Since its foundation at the start of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress by Representative Michael C. Burgess, M.D. (R-Texas), the Congressional Health Care Caucus has been aggressive in educating Republican Members and staff about targeted issues of health care policy. Through events, resources, and information, the Health Caucus has fostered a more informed health care debate.

The Health Caucus' signature event is the Policy Forum, which brings important thought leaders together to discuss a wide array of topics. Policy Forums are always open to the public and are webcast live via the Internet. These events have highlighted everything from the process and likelihood of budget reconciliation in the Senate to the options for making health care better and more affordable.

In addition to Policy Forums, the Health Caucus hosts member briefings. These briefings cover a variety of topics and are moderated by authors, former administration officials, and think tank executives. Each of these briefings are off-the-record and allow members to brainstorm new ideas and ask questions of other members without the media present.

While the majority of the Caucus' activity occurred in Washington, DC, Chairman Burgess does not want the message to end once it has reached the boundaries of the Beltway. He also traveled back to Texas and hosted several events with business owners and physicians. In addition, he hosted business roundtables with local business leaders to discuss their questions and concerns regarding the changes they will face under the law. These events highlighted the complexity of the law and the detrimental side effects many provisions of the law can have.

In addition to these popular events, the Health Caucus is an indispensable resource to staffers, providing up-to-the-minute information on legislation or one-on-one assistance. Similarly, the Caucus' website has become a destination for tens of thousands of Americans seeking to learn more about health care policy and the debate

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# MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL HEALTH CARE CAUCUS IS TO **SERVE** AS RESOURCE FOR BOTH MEMBERS AND STAFF AND **PRESENT** THEM WITH ACCURATE AND TIMELY INFORMATION ON ALL ISSUES SURROUNDING HEALTH POLICY, AND OFFER **SUPPORT** IN EQUIPPING THEM WITH RESOURCES TO **GUIDE** AND **EDUCATE** THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

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# SERVE AS A RESOURCE

The Congressional Health Care Caucus strives to serve as a resource for both members and staff. This year the Caucus has increased its outreach by hosting several member education classes with the Republican Conference as well as hosting Leadership Hour. Both of these served as a platform for Chairman Burgess to promote patient-centered and consumer driven ideas.

In addition, the Caucus hosted numerous policy forums which focus on specific subsets of policy ranging from Medicare Advantage, accountable care organizations, the effects of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act one year later, and Republican alternatives to addressing the uninsured population.

## ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATIONS

Chet Speed, *American Medical Group Association*  
Stan Dennis, *Texas Health Resources*

## ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF PPACA

James Gelfand, *U.S. Chamber of Commerce*  
Scott Gottlieb, MD, *Practicing Physician and Resident Fellow, AEI*

## TAXES AND PENALTIES IN PPACA

Grover Norquist, *Americans for Tax Reform*

## STATES AND THE UNINSURED

Peggy Tighe, *Access to Health Care Network*  
Phil Lebherz, *Coverage For All*

## MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

Dr. Gary Piefer, *Wellmed*,  
Dr. Spencer R. Berthelsen, Chairman of the Board of Managers at Kelsey-Seybold Clinic

## REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

A Doctor in the House with Dr. Burgess

Discussing Current SGR & the Future

## LEADERSHIP HOUR

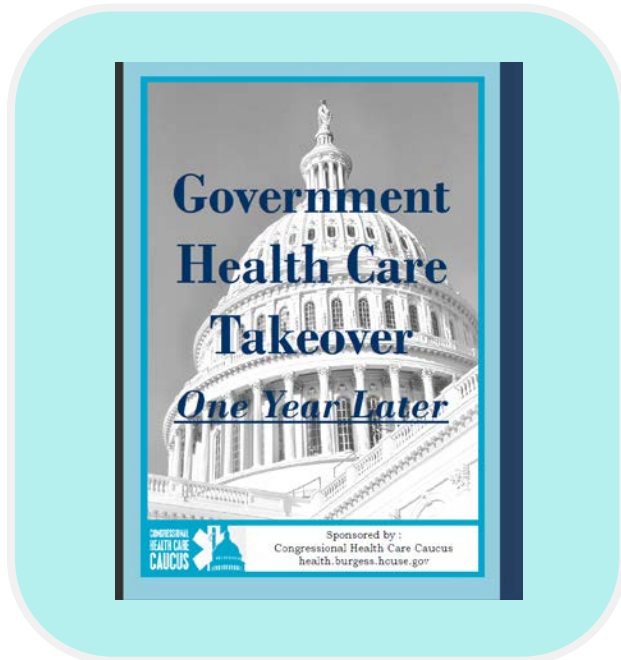
Hour on the House Floor discussing with other Members how we got to where we are today and alternative legislation that could bend the cost curve down and better health care for all Americans.

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# PRESENT ACCURATE INFORMATION

Providing accurate and timely information is a priority of the Caucus. To that end, the Caucus has delivered recesses packets to all members, one pagers are available on the website as well as distributed at Conference meetings and we continually update our Twitter feed with breaking health care news.

Our most successful distribution of information was a comprehensive health care packet given to all members before heading home for district work period. This was a multipage document outlining how we got to where we are today, the goals of this Congress, as well as a breakdown of complex information and legislation such as the sustainable growth rate and specific provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).



# OFFER SUPPORT

The Health Care Caucus also hosts off the record member briefings which pinpoint specific policy areas which members are interested in or areas they have requested more information about. At the beginning of this year, the Caucus focused on bringing in experts to discuss health care with new members, as well as help them understand the intricacies involved with this policy. These events were highly attended by freshmen who were eager to learn.

As the year progressed we hosted guests such as Representative Paul Ryan (WI-01) to discuss his budget proposal, as well as how to defend it in town halls. The Health Care Caucus also hosted pundits such as Ed Gillespie, a top communications specialist, who were able to help steer Members messaging on health care and provide them resources for when they go back home.

## FUNDAMENTALS OF HEALTH CARE

John Goodman, PhD, *National Center for Policy Analysis*

## NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., *Director of the National Institutes of Health*

## PPACA IN THE COURTS

Ken Cuccinelli, *Attorney General of Virginia*

## PALLIATIVE CARE

Bill McInturff, *Public Opinion Strategies, Partner and Co-Founder*

## REPUBLICAN BUDGET PROPOSAL

Paul Ryan, *Chairman of the Budget Committee*

## CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL

Dr. Thomas Frieden, *Director of the CDC*

## MESSAGING AND STRATEGY

Ed Gillipse, *Republican strategist*

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# GUIDE AND EDUCATE

As part of the Caucus' mission to guide and educate the American people, the Health Care Caucus maintains a website, [healthcaucus.org](http://healthcaucus.org), as well as various social media platforms such as a Twitter feed, Facebook page, and a Ustream site. It is important that although the majority of our events take place inside the Beltway, the information presented reached across the country. To achieve this goal, we live stream all open events and archive on the video on the website.

In addition, the website features blog postings about various policy topics such as PPACA in the courts and the individual mandate. In addition, it also features postings which focus on heart disease and diabetes.





# THOUGHT LEADERS SERIES

The Thought Leaders Series began as a platform for influential Republican leaders to discuss their views of health care and share the policies they would like to enact if they were given the opportunity. In 2011 Chairman Burgess hosted numerous Republican presidential candidates, as well as other thought leaders and allowed each to share their insight into the nation's health care problems as well as offer their solutions.



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# THOUGHT LEADERS SERIES

In June of 2010, Congressman Burgess hosted former of Indiana, Governor Mitch Daniels. Governor Daniels outlined his decision to implement Health Savings Accounts (HSA) in Indiana and highlighted the savings incurred by their state. He discovered when people were in charge of their health care, they were more conscious consumers – leading to savings for individuals and the state.



Congressman Michael Pence (IN-06) joined the Thought Leaders Series in July of 2010 and shared his ideas for health care reform. One provision that was left out from the law was the ability to purchase insurance across state lines. He pointed out that many small businesses would like to be able to cover their employees; however, they lack options in their area. By opening up the market place prices will fall and more people will be able



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# THOUGHT LEADERS SERIES

The 2011 Thought Leaders Series kicked off with Former Speaker Newt Gingrich. He discussed how we need to restructure our health care model to saving lives and then, second, save money. He emphasized how a health care system that is centered on responsibility, health and wellness that used market systems could help us break out of our current broken system.



In April of this year, Governor Hayley Barbour of Mississippi joined the Health Caucus and discussed Medicaid reforms he had enacted in his state. Through the legislature he passed a law that reformed Mississippi's Medicaid system without further cutting provider payments – an act he has seen that caused providers to leave the Medicaid system and forgo seeing patients.



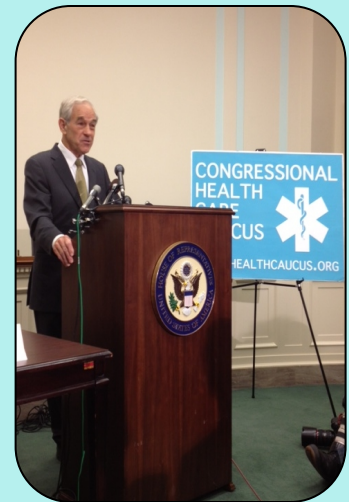
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# THOUGHT LEADERS SERIES

In early November Herman Cain spoke to the Health Caucus regarding his proposals for health care should he become the Republican presidential nominee. He said he would first repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with a bill that was both lower in cost and with less government intrusion. In addition, he signaled his support for legislation introduced last Congress by Representative Tom Price (GA-06).



Representative Ron Paul (TX-14) spoke to the Caucus and laid out examples how the federal government hinders the practice of medicine. As a doctor, he believes the decision making process should lie between the patient and their physician, not with the government as well.



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# THOUGHT LEADERS SERIES

Most recently Governor Rick Perry joined the Health Caucus to discuss the reforms he helped implement in Texas. In his time as Governor, he has been able to implement medical liability reform which brought doctors to underserved areas many of which didn't have a single ER doctor or OB/GYN.



The Congressional Health Care Caucus extends an invitation to all Presidential candidates to come and discuss health care. These forums are an arena to discuss health care policy and provide an open dialogue between the candidate and those in attendance as well as watching online. To view previous thought leaders, please go to [healthcaucus.org](http://healthcaucus.org).

# CAUCUS STATS

AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF ALL OFF-THE-RECORD MEMBER DISCUSSIONS, PUBLIC POLICY FORUMS, THOUGHT LEADERS SERIES AND SOCIAL MEDIA INFORMATION, INCLUDING: 23 TOTAL EVENTS, 4 THOUGHT LEADERS SERIES, 8 OFF-THE-RECORD BRIEFINGS, 8 PUBLIC POLICY FORUMS, 2 REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE EVENTS, AND A HOUSE SPECIAL ORDER.

TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS

24

THOUGHT LEADERS SERIES

FIVE

ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

3

EVENTS OUTSIDE OF DC

LEWISVILLE  
TROPHY CLUB  
DENTON

OFF-THE-RECORD EVENTS

8

PUBLIC POLICY FORUMS

EIGHT

NUMBER OF TWITTER FOLLOWERS

7,664

HIGH PROFILE GUESTS

5

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

262

HOSTED BY THE CAUCUS

SPECIAL ORDER  
MEMBER EDUCATION

INCREASE IN EVENTS

15%