

COLLEGE PARK, MD - Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-D) joined President Barack Obama today for a health insurance reform rally at the University of Maryland - College Park. He released the following statement:

"This afternoon, I was pleased to join President Obama as he made the case for health insurance reform to an audience of students in my congressional district, at the University of Maryland in College Park. The need for reform is especially pressing for young Americans, and I hope that they continue to add their voices to the effort in the weeks and months ahead. Some young people may feel as if they will never need medical care, but the truth is that our broken system exacts a high cost from them. As the President pointed out, 'more than one-third of all young adults-including those *with* insurance-have had trouble paying their medical bills. [And] one-fourth of all young adults are paying off medical debt.

"The plan put forward by Democrats has a number of features that will contribute to young Americans' health and security. It allows young adults to remain covered on their parents' insurance policies until the age of 26. It prohibits insurance companies from denying or revoking coverage because of pre-existing conditions. It puts a cap on out-of-pocket expenses and ends medical bankruptcy. And it allows Americans to keep their coverage even when they change jobs. Most importantly for the long run, we are committed to bringing down health care costs in the long run, helping to protect young Americans from a future of red ink.

"Already, Congress has reached a great deal of agreement on the substance of a final reform bill. We continue to work hard to combine the bills proposed by the five committees with jurisdiction, so that we can, at long last, deliver on the change that has been a national priority since the days of Theodore Roosevelt."

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