The High Cost of Health Care: We Can Do Better

Years of bipartisan bickering have left Americans with a health care system on life-support.

- Prices are too high and getting higher. It is a national embarrassment that some U.S. residents are buying prescription drugs from Canada and seeking dental care in Mexico.
- Vast areas of rural America, including Oklahoma, are losing basic health care services, and Republican plans to change Medicaid will make things worse.¹
- According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, a leading health care policy group, if we do not address the rising cost of health care, costs will continue to rise²:



Illness and disease can strike any of us; sooner or later, they will affect all of us. When they do, we need good, affordable care in our community. We live in the greatest nation on earth, and we should have the best health care. For too many years, Congress fought to enact or repeal complex programs that no one understood. Instead of working for the benefit of all Americans, some members of Congress—including those charged with writing health care laws—have enriched themselves through insider trading with pharmaceutical companies.³ We can do better than this.

What can we do? We can

- develop bipartisan solutions that take everyone's needs into consideration
- bring Oklahoma tax dollars back to our state to keep hospitals open and to provide a safety net for those who—through no fault of their own—fall victim to accidents or disease.

As of last month, 34 states have expanded Medicaid eligibility to provide desperately needed resources to their citizens.⁴ Three more are considering expansion. Right now, Oklahoma is not accepting these funds.

If you elect me, Frankie Robbins, to Congress from Oklahoma's 3rd District, I will work with Representatives from both parties to solve our heath care crisis and make sure that Oklahoma is not left behind.

- ³ Wall Street Journal, <u>https://www.wsj.com/articles/new-york-congressman-chris-collins-is-arrested-on-insider-trading-charges-1533736677</u> and <u>https://www.wsj.com/articles/lawmaker-asks-sec-to-investigate-stock-trades-of-hhs-nominee-tom-price-1484042401</u>
- ⁴ Kaiser Family Foundation, <u>https://www.kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/state-activity-around-expanding-medicaid-under-the-affordable-care-act/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D</u>

¹ NBC News, <u>https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/access-health-care-rural-communities-uncertain-medicaid-cuts-loom-n778546</u>

² Kaiser Family Foundation, <u>https://www.kff.org/medicare/slide/medical-expenses-among-medicare-beneficiaries-will-consume-a-growing-share-of-their-social-security-income/</u>