

Chris Dodd

U.S. SENATOR FROM CONNECTICUT



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DODD STATEMENT ON PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) released the following statement on the new “Patients’ Bill of Rights” that President Barack Obama announced at a meeting with insurance company CEOs earlier today. The new “Patients’ Bill of Rights” was included in the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*, the health care reform legislation that Senator Dodd helped author.

“This historic set of rights for patients that was included in the *Affordable Care Act* will help Americans take complete control of their own health care coverage,” **said Dodd**. “With this new ‘bill of rights,’ never again will your insurance company be able to cancel your coverage on a whim. Never again will insurance companies be able to deny your children coverage if they have a pre-existing condition. Never again will they be allowed to impose lifetime caps on benefits, which is critical for the millions of Americans who suffer from chronic diseases like cancer. This ‘Patients’ Bill of Rights’ will protect all Americans’ access to secure, stable, and affordable health care.”

President Obama’s announcement on new rights for patients came 90 days after the health reform legislation was signed into law. The President made the announcement following a White House meeting on health insurance premiums with Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, state insurance commissioners, and insurance company CEOs.

Two weeks ago, the Administration announced the availability of \$51 million in grants to states, [including \\$1 million for Connecticut](#), to provide state insurance commissioners to review, approve, modify, or deny health insurance rate increases. Kevin Lembo, head of the Connecticut Office of the Healthcare Advocate, was in attendance at today’s meeting, as was Aetna CEO Ronald A. Williams and CIGNA President and CEO David M. Cordani.

Dodd played a key role in writing and passing the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*, which was signed into law by President Obama in March. Dodd led the HELP committee’s consideration of health care reform legislation and worked closely with President Obama and leaders from the House and Senate on the final legislation.

Additionally, Dodd [authored a number of important amendments](#) that were included in the health care reform bill signed into law. Several Dodd amendments dealt with the issue of patient protection, including a provision prohibiting rescissions, which is the ability for an insurance company to change or eliminate coverage once a policy has been issued.

A summary of how Connecticut will benefit from the health care reform law can be found [here](#). *A fact sheet on the new patient protections is attached.*

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