

[Health reform has benefits](#)

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Ben Ray Lujan  
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Since going to Congress, I've held several events in Farmington and San Juan County, I've spoken with many residents in the area, and I know there is deep skepticism about health insurance reform. I know that there are strong opinions on all sides, some of which are unlikely to change, but I'd like to try to outline a few of the benefits of the recently passed health insurance reform legislation.

I believe, as do many of you, that we need health insurance reform, even if we may disagree on how to do it.

Right now, too many families are being hurt by out-of-control health insurance bills, too many individuals are being denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions and too many small businesses are struggling with a costly and inefficient system. During the last decade, health insurance premiums have doubled, while wages have gone up by just 3 percent. And if the trend continues, premiums will double in the next decade — costing families \$25,600 a year. This is simply not sustainable.

Health insurance reform will rein in these costs, and it will do so while reducing the deficit by \$1.3 trillion. How many times in the past 17 years has Congress had the opportunity to pass legislation that reduces the deficit by such an amount? Zero.

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