

## Murphy Begins Bipartisan Talks to Find Common Ground across Political Parties on Health Care Reform

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - After hearing from people across Connecticut about the need to work across party lines on health care reform and passing that strong message on to U.S. House of Representatives leadership, Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) was hand-picked to be part of a small group of Republican and Democratic Members of the House to talk about finding common ground. Seven Republican and seven Democratic Members, selected by House leadership, began bipartisan negotiations last night.

"We've spent months talking about health care reform here in Washington and back in Connecticut, and we are closer than ever to making changes to the system that work for our state. But when I was meeting with people on town greens in August, they would ask a really good question - why don't we see more cooperation between Republicans and Democrats in Washington? And they were right. I'm no Pollyanna - I get that there are some differences that may not be able to be bridged, but we can certainly find common ground on a number of items that will make the health reform legislation better," said Murphy.

Last night, the Members agreed on the outline of an agenda for continued talks, including the issues of cracking down on unfair insurance company practices, moving the health care payment system toward paying for outcomes instead of volume, allowing for the purchase of insurance across state lines, and reforming the medical malpractice system to cut down on defensive medicine costs.

"It's a shame health care reform has turned into a partisan issue, because people out there who are struggling to pay for insurance are of all political stripes. Everyone in the room last night agreed that Congress has to pass a health care reform bill, and that it would be better with bipartisan support. Maybe this group won't get us all the way there, but there is no reason not to try. I'm honored to be part of this important effort," said Murphy.

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