

Republican Candidate for Illinois State Representative, House District 106  
Tom Bennett's Perspective on Healthcare – 2/16/2012

Illinois cannot be a strong state without a strong health system. There are several medical facilities throughout the Illinois House district 106 including hospitals in Eureka, Pontiac, Watseka, Hoopeston, and Gibson City. Illinois hospitals, such as the ones noted here, are major employers in their area, purchase billions of dollars annually in goods and services, and invest billions in capital projects and equipment. In addition, health providers are expected to provide care whether or not the patient can provide payment.

As your State Representative in the 106, I will strive to have strong relationships with our hospitals and staff to help ensure we have a supportive environment in which hospitals and medical staff can provide high quality healthcare at affordable rates to local residents.

Providing quality health care involves a complex set of issues that impact our hospitals and health system. Some of these concerns include:

- Stable and Balanced Budget – Stability provides CEO the ability to better create budgets and better anticipate potential concerns through the fiscal year.
- Medicaid only covers 75% of the costs hospitals encounter when treating Medicaid patients. 75% of the Medicaid payments to hospitals come from hospitals paying into a state assessment program and matching federal funds. State only provides the other 25%. Illinois also delays payments. Look at ways to increase federal matching and control and reduce costs while looking at the overall approach to delivering quality health care.
- Hospitals should remain in tax-exempt status. Hospitals provide charity care, absorb bad debt, provide additional training to staff, and provide research not covered by outside sources.
- Nearly half of the doctors trained in Illinois leave the state because they are concerned about the medical liability environment. Doctors face high medical liability insurance costs and practice defensive medicine to protect themselves and this drives up the overall cost of health care. Situation will become even more critical as the baby boomers retire. To help:
  - Promote physician opportunities in rural areas
  - Develop plans to retain Illinois doctors in Illinois
  - Fight for medical liability and tort reform

Republican Candidate for Illinois State Representative, House District 106  
Tom Bennett's Perspective on Healthcare – 2/16/2012

Obama Care - Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. The bill itself was close to 2,000 pages long and Nancy Pelosi, former Speaker of the House said to pass the bill so we can see what is in it. There were 100s of authors and no one truly oversaw the whole thing. Obama's plan is have a national health care program but it cannot be sustained. There are serious problems with interpretation. This does not lower costs nor improve quality. Part of this legislation requires everyone to buy insurance and several states and organizations are challenging this in federal court. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear the case. Some things are happening right now while other things will be implemented over a number of years. It is a jobs killer bill. Some insurance companies no longer offer health care plans.

I would like to look at models that have been effective in providing quality health care and controlling costs. One such model is the Patient-centered Medical Home (PCMH) – This model is supported by the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians and preliminary estimates suggest that over \$400 million dollars have been saved in the Medicaid program from 2007 – 2010 while also receiving high client satisfaction results.