

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) released the following statement after he joined his House colleagues in passing comprehensive health insurance reform legislation.

"It was a thrill tonight to be involved in such a historic day, passing the most comprehensive health care legislation in history.

"Politics, as I often say, is the art of compromise. The Senate legislation is far from perfect, though the reconciliation bill will fix many of its flaws. I also am painfully aware that there are other key items that were left out. This is one step, one long leap, toward providing secure, affordable health coverage to all Americans.

"Leadership is about getting things done. Tonight we saw political leaders doing what they were elected to do: make America stronger.

"Especially comforting was having Ben Spangenberg, my next-door neighbor from Carmel, watching the debate from his wheelchair in the visitors' gallery. Ben was born with Spina Bifida, and doctors told his parents to leave him at the hospital. But they chose to care for Ben, and

today he was able to look on as Congress banned discrimination for pre-existing conditions, a move that will level the playing field for Ben and allow him to pursue his career."

For more information on this legislation, consult Rep. Farr's [Health Reform Clearinghouse](#) .

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