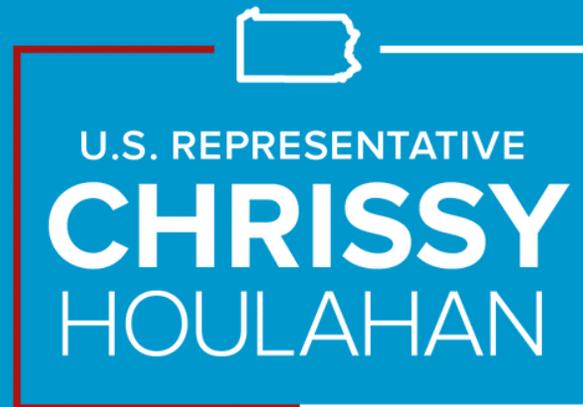


U.S. REPRESENTATIVE  
**CHRISSY**  
HOULAHAN

# TOWN HALL

*Protecting Pennsylvanians' Health Care*



# Meeting Norms

## We will:

1. Treat each other with respect and leave titles at the door
2. Use our time wisely by sticking to the agenda\*
3. Address any conflict by dealing with the issue, not the person
4. Ask clarifying questions when in doubt
5. We will discuss policy, not politics\*\*

\*Topics requiring further discussion will be documented for follow-up

\*\*This Town Hall is not about the 2020 election



# Preparing for Q&A

Please write your questions on the **comment card** and pass them to a staff member.

If your question is not addressed during the town hall, **we will respond to you via email or a phone call!**

Please include **legible contact information** to ensure a response.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE  
**CHRISSEY HOULAHAN**  
PROUDLY SERVING PENNSYLVANIANS

**STAY IN TOUCH WITH US**

**LET US KNOW A LITTLE MORE ABOUT YOU**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT ISSUES MATTER MOST TO YOU?**

Agriculture  Infrastructure

Criminal Justice  LGBTQ+

Economy / Jobs  National Security

Education  Veterans

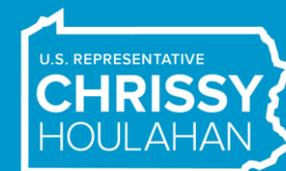
Environment  Women's Rights

Government Reform  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Gun Violence Prevention \_\_\_\_\_

Healthcare \_\_\_\_\_

Immigration \_\_\_\_\_



# Agenda

6:00 – Meeting Norms & Comment Cards

**6:05 – Welcome**

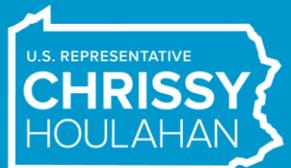
6:10 – Constituent Services

6:15 – Legislative Updates

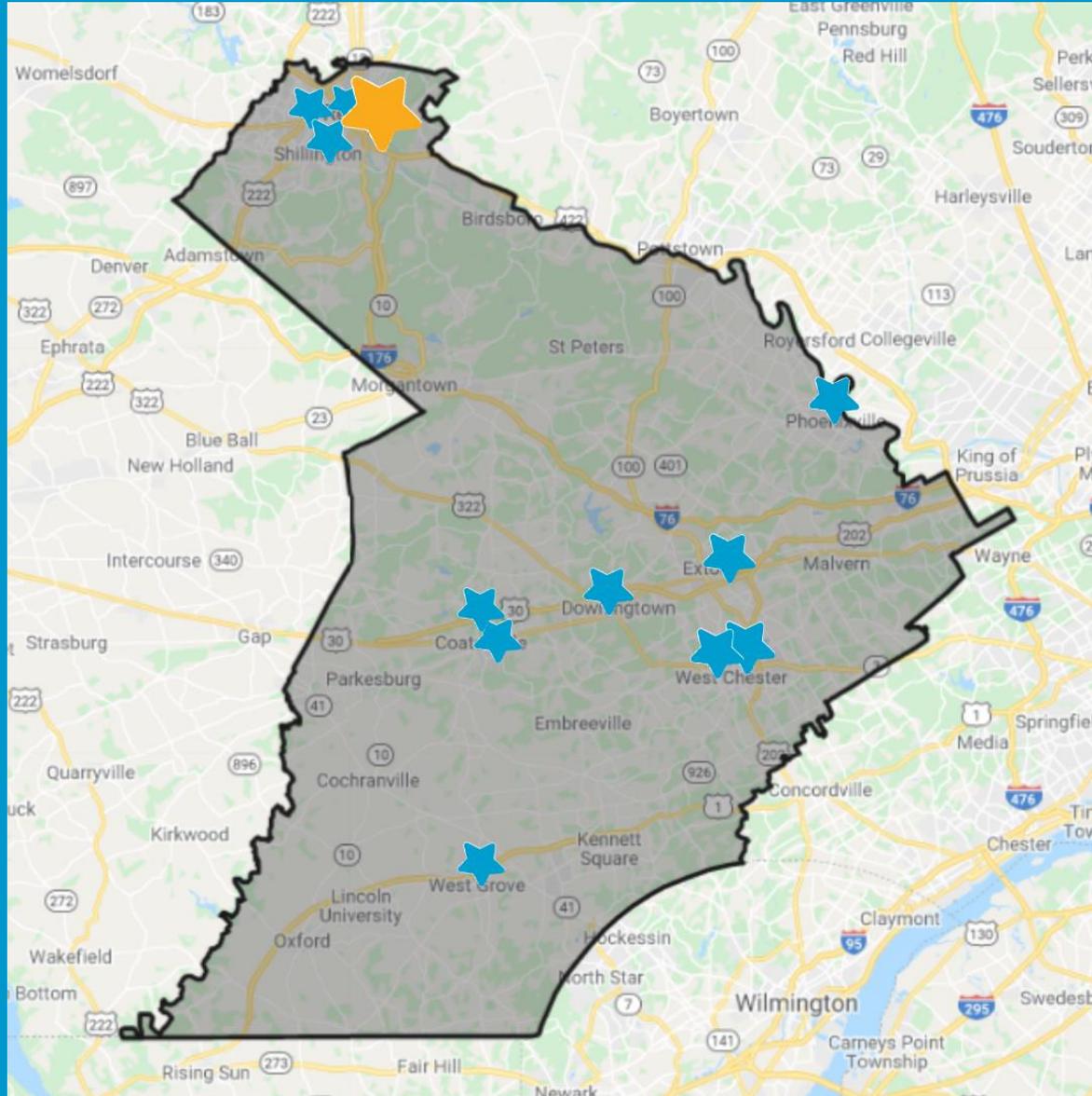
6:30 – Share Your Health Care Story

6:40 – Q&A with Chrissy and Closing Remarks

7:10 – Adjourn



# Welcome to our 16th Town Hall!



# Welcome to our 16th Town Hall!



# How We Can Help

- Advocate for you with **federal agencies**
- Write **letters of support** for federal grant applications
- Arrange **tours of DC landmarks**, including the U.S. Capitol
- Fly **flags** over the Capitol
- Nominate students to **military service academies**
- Provide **internships** to PA-06 college students\*
- Record your story for the **Veterans History Project**

\*Stipends available for Pell Grant-eligible applicants

## Constituent Services

Our office:

**CLOSED 900+ CASES**

and

**RETURNED**

**\$2 MILLION**

from Federal  
Agencies for our  
community!

JANUARY 2019 - PRESENT

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE  
**CHRISSE HOULAHAN**

# Legislative Updates

*(15 minutes)*

6:15PM



# We Will Discuss

1. Ensuring Quality, Accessible, and Affordable Health Care
2. The Administration's Budget Proposal
3. Lowering Costs of Prescription Drugs
4. Destigmatizing Mental Health
5. Investing in Medical Innovation
6. Combatting the Opioid Crisis

# Fighting for Accessible, Affordable Care



Meeting with the CEO of La Comunidad Hispana, a federally funded community health center

- **Strengthening Health Care and Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Act**
- **Protecting Pre-existing Conditions & Making Health Care More Affordable Act**
- January 2020 **State of the Union Guest** was an ACA Navigator from our community

# Fighting for Accessible, Affordable Care



Meeting with the CEO of La Comunidad Hispana, a federally funded community health center

- **Strengthening Health Care and Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Act**
  - Bipartisan
  - Passed House: May 16, 2019
- **Protecting Pre-existing Conditions & Making Health Care More Affordable Act**
  - Introduced in the House: March 26, 2019
- January 2020 **State of the Union Guest** was an ACA Navigator from our community

# The Administration's Budget Proposal

- ✗ Cuts to spending on Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security
- ✗ Cuts to subsidies to lower premiums and strengthen the ACA market
- ✗ The budget proposes combined cuts to spending in Medicaid and ACA subsidies that come to a trillion dollars

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2020

Seema Verma, MPH  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Verma:

We write to express our deep concern with the Administration's "Healthy Adult Opportunity" guidance, which would fundamentally undermine the Medicaid system and jeopardize the health of our communities. In our home state of Pennsylvania, Medicaid expansion has given more than 800,000 adults access to affordable healthcare that they did not have before.<sup>[1]</sup> Despite the Administration's claims that this proposal would give greater flexibility to states, the truth is this is a continuation of a pattern of attacks on what is working well in our healthcare system.

The numbers tell a profound story: in Pennsylvania, twenty percent of the total population is covered by Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This coverage is particularly important for our children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. In Pennsylvania, Medicaid covers:

- One in three children
- Two in three residents of nursing homes
- Two in five people with disabilities

Rather than increase states' flexibility, as the proposal purports to do, block granting Medicaid could lead states receiving lump sum annual payments to have to make tough choices that would put beneficiaries at risk. We believe that states already have adequate flexibility to make Medicaid expansion attractive. We are particularly concerned that your proposal would allow states to limit access to prescription drugs, and to impose eligibility criteria that could severely limit access. If the goal is to create a pathway for states that have not yet expanded Medicaid to do so, we encourage you to engage with Congress about other ways to incentivize expansion, such as a proposal to allow states to receive the same full federal matching funds as early adopters did.

<sup>[1]</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation, October 2019

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

While your rhetoric suggests otherwise, it is clear that this proposal is not truly intended to increase benefits or encourage states to expand their Medicaid programs, but rather a cynical ploy to cut benefits and raise costs for the millions of individuals who benefited from Medicaid expansion over the last several years. We applaud Pennsylvania Governor Wolf for putting people first and rejecting the block grant proposal, making clear that our state will not participate under his Administration. Congress has repeatedly rejected proposals to cut Medicaid on a bipartisan basis because we know that this program is a lifesaver for many, especially the most vulnerable among us. States already have sufficient flexibility under the law to adapt their Medicaid program to local needs.

The "Healthy Adult Opportunity" proposal is yet another attempt to undermine what is working with our healthcare system and to cut access to affordable healthcare for seniors, children, people with disabilities, and low-income adults. We oppose this proposal and urge the Administration to reconsider, and instead work with the Congress to expand – not restrict – access to affordable, quality healthcare for all Americans.

Sincerely,

*Chrissy Houlahan*  
Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress

*Madeleine Dean*  
Madelaine Dean  
Member of Congress

*Matthew Cartwright*  
Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress

*Mary G. Scanlon*  
Mary G. Scanlon  
Member of Congress

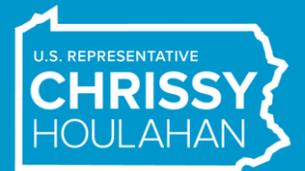
*Conor Lamb*  
Conor Lamb  
Member of Congress

*Brendan Boyle*  
Brendan Boyle  
Member of Congress

*Dwight Evans*  
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

*Mike Doyle*  
Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress

*Susan Wild*  
Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



# Lowering the Cost of Prescriptions

- Elijah E. Cummings' **Lower Drug Costs Now Act** →
- **CREATES Act** enacted into law in December 2019
- Bipartisan letter to House leadership calling for action on **drug pricing bills that can pass the Senate**

## H.R. 3, The Lower Drug Costs Now Act:

- Lowers drug costs by giving Medicare the power to negotiate directly with pharmaceutical companies*
- Makes the lower drug prices available to all Americans*
- Stops companies from price gouging Americans*
- Creates a new, \$2,000 out-of-pocket limit on prescription drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries*



# Lowering the Cost of Prescriptions

- Elijah E. Cummings' **Lower Drug Costs Now Act**
  - Bipartisan
  - Passed House: December 12, 2019
- **CREATES Act** enacted into law in December 2019
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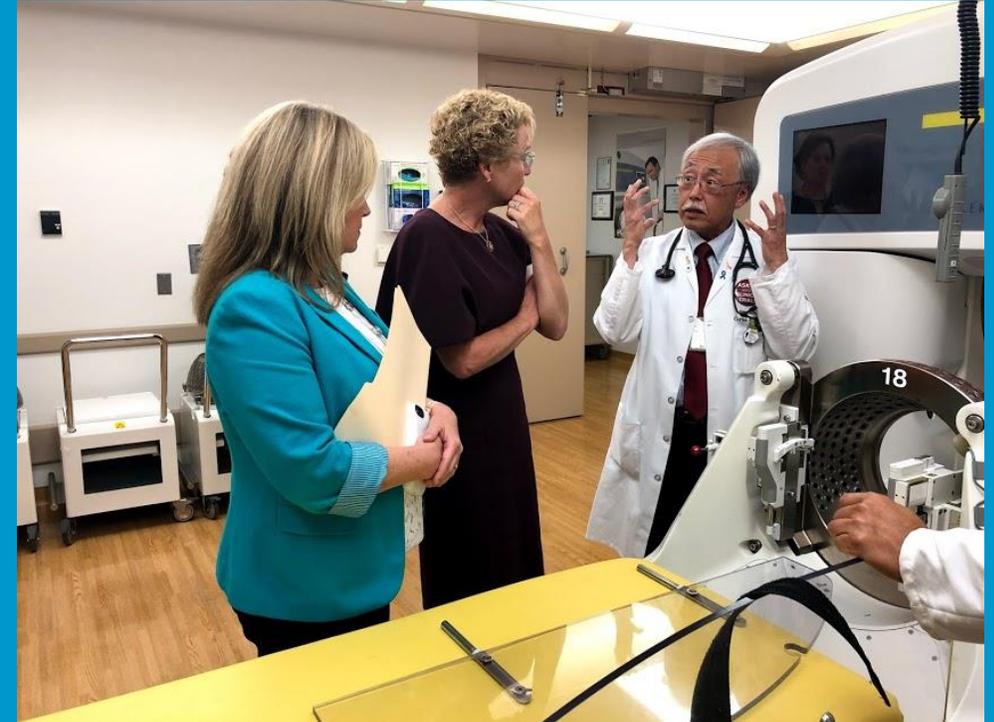


# Destigmatizing Mental Health Conditions

- **Improve Well-Being for Veterans Act**
- Establish a **three-digit national hotline (988)**
- **Greater Mental Health Access Act**
- **Mental Health Access Improvement Act**
- Two bills to support young people –
  - **Mental Health Services for Students Act**
  - **Enhancing Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Through Campus Planning Act**

# Encouraging Medical Innovation

- **Medical Device Tax Repeal**
  - Saving an estimated:
    - 21,390 full-time equivalent jobs\*
    - \$1.7 billion in GDP\*
- **Biomedical Innovation Expansion Act**
  - \$10 billion over the next ten years for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)



Learning about Temple University Health Center's Gamma Knife, which is used to treat neurological disorders



\* Source: <https://taxfoundation.org/medical-device-tax-repeal>

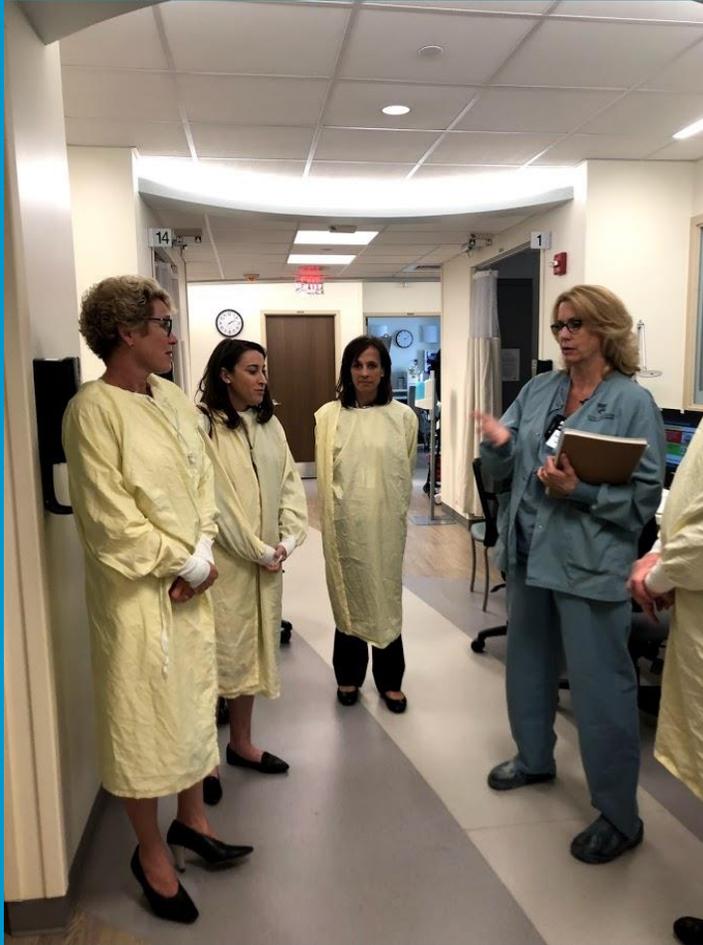
# Encouraging Medical Innovation

- **Medical Device Tax Repeal**
  - Bipartisan
  - Signed into law by President Trump:  
December 2019
- **Biomedical Innovation Expansion Act**
  - Bipartisan
  - Passed House: December 12, 2019



Learning about Temple University Health Center's Gamma Knife, which is used to treat neurological disorders

# Encouraging Medical Innovation



Touring the NICU at Penn Medicine  
Chester County Hospital

- Letter advocating for funding for NIH's Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
  - Result: The Appropriations Committee added money to the program
- Technology and medicine--CONNECT Act
  - Bipartisan
  - Bicameral
  - Introduced: October 30, 2019

# Combating the Opioid Crisis

- Freshman Working Group on Addiction
- Opioid Workforce Act of 2019
- Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Expansion Act



**Pa. attorney general, U.S. Rep. Chrissy Houlahan discuss the opioid epidemic at Reading Hospital roundtable**

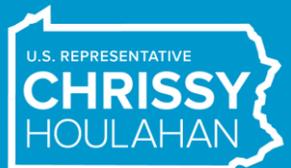
Mike Urban | May 29, 2019

Although the death toll caused by opioid overdoses in Pennsylvania has dipped slightly in the last year, addiction to those drugs remains the ...

# Share Your Stories

*(10 minutes)*

6:30PM



# Share Your Stories

Please raise your hand to share a story about health care concerns. Some ideas:

- Cost of prescription drugs
- Surprise medical bills
- Insurance coverage

Please keep your comments brief so that we can hear from many of you!



# Q&A Period

*(30 minutes)*

6:40PM

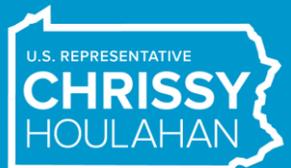


# Q&A Period

If you have not yet done so, **please pass your completed comment cards to a staff member.**

Remember, if we don't get to your question, **we will respond to it via email or a phone call!**

**Please write legibly** and include your contact information.



# Thanks for Coming!



# Stay in Touch



## Website:

[www.houlahan.house.gov](http://www.houlahan.house.gov)

- Request assistance with a federal agency
- Request a tour or flag flown over the Capitol
- Schedule a meeting with me or a member of my team
- Subscribe to my newsletter
- And much more!

## Social:

Facebook:

[facebook.com/ChrissyHoulahan](https://facebook.com/ChrissyHoulahan)

Twitter: @RepHoulahan

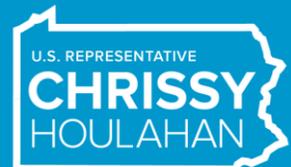
Instagram: @ChrissyHoulahan

## Phone:

202-225-4315 (Washington, DC)

610-883-5050 (West Chester)

610-295-0815 (Reading)



# Stop By Our District Offices



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