

WASHINGTON, DC –“ Congressman Joe Courtney today announced the launch of [HealthCare.gov](#),

a comprehensive website designed to guide consumers through the benefits and requirements of health care reform. The website is designed to help individuals, families and small businesses navigate the process of shopping for health insurance.

“In the past, navigating the health insurance system and trying to find the best option has been a tedious and confusing process,” Courtney said. “Healthcare.gov opens new doors and new options to consumers, directing them to both public and private insurance options. This tool creates a transparent and competitive marketplace, and cuts through the chatter, providing users with the information they need to make informed health insurance choices.”

The core of the new website is the powerful [insurance options finder](#). After consumers input simple background information – such as state, age range, and current insurance status – the tool generates a list of insurance options. The tool outlines details of the options, and provides contact information so consumers can deal with the company and plans directly. Beginning in October, the tool will also include pricing information, further simplifying health insurance shopping.

The new insurance tool also outlines information on a new coverage option, the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan, for those who have been denied coverage due to a pre-existing health condition. The Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan will be jointly operated by the Connecticut Department of Social Services and the Health Reinsurance Association, and will be available to men and women who have been without coverage for at least six months and have a pre-existing health condition. The plan will cover primary and specialty care, prescription drugs, and limit out-of-pocket costs to \$4,250 for in-network care and \$15,000 for out-of-network care. Individuals and families with pre-existing health conditions will find more affordable options in the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan than what is currently available in the private market or through the state high-risk pool.

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