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Buerkle cosponsors HEALTH Act of 2011

By Amanda Seef, staff writer | April 5, 2011
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<http://www.brightonpittsfordpost.com/latestnews/x1700899051/Buerkle-cosponsors-HEALTH-Act-of-2011>

Webster, N.Y. - Congresswoman Ann Marie Buerkle, R-Syracuse, has cosponsored a bill relating to health care.

The Help, Efficient, Accessible, Low-cost, Timely Healthcare Act of 2011 (HEALTH) will help to reform medical malpractice liability, which allows frivolous medical lawsuits.

According to Buerkle, the lawsuits have been a cause to skyrocketing healthcare costs.

"Torte reform is an essential piece of any true health care reform," she said. "Until we begin to control the costs driven by litigation of malpractice suits we cannot truly reform healthcare in the U.S."

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, the result of doctors practicing defensive medicine costs the health care industry between \$70 billion and \$126 billion annually.

Prior to election, Buerkle was a nurse and an assistant New York State Attorney General representing Upstate Medical University and Hospital in Syracuse.

"I have seen how these gratuitous lawsuits drive up the cost of coverage by physicians and administrators reacting defensively. This legislation is critical to the future face of healthcare."