

## Legislative Accomplishments: Health Care

- Mahoney supported stem cell research by cosponsoring the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007, H.R. 3.

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Congressman Mahoney twice voted to increase the number stem cell lines eligible for federally-funded research. These bills included strict ethical guidelines and would only apply to stem cell lines derived from embryos that would otherwise be discarded by fertility clinics.

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Mahoney has been an outspoken advocate for ethical stem cell research and has spoken at two press conferences urging the President to show leadership on this issue.

- Mahoney supported S-CHIP Funding (State Children's Health Insurance Program) by voting for the Budget Resolution which provided a reserve fund of \$50 billion over 5 years to expand coverage and improve children's health through the SCHIP and Medicaid.

- Mahoney voted in favor of the CHAMP (Children's Health and Medicare Protection) Act, H.R. 3162. The CHAMP ACT, passed the House by a vote of 225-204 on August 1, 2007, reauthorized the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

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The SCHIP program currently provides health care coverage for 6 million children nationwide - the CHAMP Act would continue the coverage for those children and provide additional coverage to 5 million more children, including up to 500,000 children currently without health insurance in Florida.

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The CHAMP Act would also make important improvements to the existing Medicare program, including: ensuring that our seniors and individuals with disabilities can continue to see the doctors of

their choice by stopping a 10 percent cut in payment to doctors and replacing it with a 0.5 percent increase for physicians; protecting our rural seniors' access to health care by sustaining the healthcare safety net, adjusting Medicare payments to rural hospitals, and boost funding for rural clinics, doctors and ambulances; and allowing participants in the Medicare Prescription Drug program (Part D) to switch drug plans any time if their plans alter the drugs that are covered.

- Mahoney  
supported the SCHIP Conference Report

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The Conference Report, as passed, incorporated the Senate SCHIP bill which only dealt with the SCHIP Reauthorization and didn't include any of the Medicare provisions included in the House SCHIP bill. The bill also included a 61 cent per pack increase in the tobacco tax on cigarettes instead of the House passed 45 cent per pack increase.

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RC# 906; passed 9/25/07; 265-159

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Mahoney voted to override the President's Veto of SCHIP

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RC# 982; override failed 10/18/07, with a vote of 273-156

- Mahoney cosponsored and supported the Medicare Prescription Drug Negotiation Act, H.R. 4 to repeal the prohibition against the Secretary of HHS negotiating for lower prescription drug prices.

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RC# 23; passed 1/12/07; 225-170

- Mahoney cosponsored H.R. 1521, the Universal Health Care Act: Repeal Late Enrollment Penalty Fee for Part D.

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Under the Medicare Modernization Act, those Medicare beneficiaries who did not enroll in Medicare Part D by May 2006 and instead enrolled later are assessed a substantial late penalty fee. This bill would repeal that penalty fee.

- Mahoney cosponsored H.R. 1157, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act.

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The Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act would establish a national strategy to study the links between the environment and breast cancer. This legislation would authorize the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop a peer-reviewed grant program for the establishment of collaborative research centers to study environmental factors that are believed to contribute to breast cancer.

- Mahoney cosponsored H.R. 1093, the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act

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Medicare pays for Medical Graduate Education to train residents, but imposes a cap on the number of residents in each state. This hurts FL because we could train more residents and keep them in FL if that cap was repealed. H.R. 1093 would increase the current cap on residents for states like Florida with a shortage of residents.

- Mahoney supported the Genetic Nondiscrimination Act, H.R. 493, to prohibit employers and insurance companies from using genetic information when making decisions about hiring, firing, or providing health coverage

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RC# 261; 4/25/07; passed by a bipartisan vote of 420-3

- Mahoney signs onto Rep. Tanner's letter to Leadership of the Ways and Means Committee asking to delay the Centers

for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS)' round 1 of Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Competitive Bidding Process.

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5/21/2008

- Mahoney  
joins the Veterans' Mental Health Caucus.  
The caucus will work to increase awareness of the mental health care needs of returning veterans, treatment options, job training and readjustment, suicide prevention, and funding needs.

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6/08

- Mahoney  
voted to override the President's veto of H.R. 6331, The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008. H.R. 6331 prevents the 10.6% reduction in physician reimbursement payments that was scheduled to take place on July 1, 2008. It also ensures that active-duty military personnel and military retirees will continue to have access to doctors they know and trust.

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RC#443; 6/24/08, 355-59.

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7/9/2008 Cleared for White House; President has threatened to veto.

- Mahoney  
co-sponsors H.R. 6210, the Small Business Health Options Plan (SHOP) Act. The SHOP ACT would make health insurance more affordable, predictable, and accessible for small businesses and the self-employed.  
The SHOP Act would offer tax incentives to encourage states to reform poorly functioning small group insurance markets and would encourage the development of state purchasing pools backstopped by a voluntary, nationwide pool.

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7/14/2008

