Sunday Night, I hosted a public forum on health care reform at the Northwestern Connecticut Community College in Winsted.

Rural areas of our nation, such as Litchfield County, are as vulnerable to the weaknesses of our current health care system as our urban communities. The availability of quality health care is a particular issue in rural areas. Access to quality health care is essential to maintaining the health and wellness of a community and its residents.

I was pleased to invite a panel of individuals who have worked tirelessly at the forefront of our health care system to speak directly to the importance of reform. Panel members included Judith Stein of the Center for Medicare Advocacy , Brenda Kelley of the Connecticut AARP as well as local speakers, Dr. William Handelman of Charlotte Hungerford Hospital and Kathy Grimaud, Executive Director of the Community Health and Wellness Center of Greater Torrington.

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