



United States 1st Congressional

How should the new health care reform bill be handled?

What are your feelings on the second amendment?

What are your thoughts on national defense?



Jason Allen
Republican

"The first item is that we have to stop it by any means possible. We've got to repeal (the bill). Next, we have to defund it and stop the implementation in any way."

Allen said he knows liberals in Southeastern Michigan are already talking about expansion, because "they see this great boon of resources going into Detroit."

"That automatically is a red flag. As a conservative, we have seen so many dollars go into the city of Detroit. We have to make sure our rural health care is taken care of."

"As a conservative and a veteran, I'm very honored to have served this country in the (Michigan) National Guard to protect our constitution."

Allen said as an avid outdoorsman, he has the only 100 percent rating by the National Rifle Association. "I've co-sponsored legislation from everything from the Eddie Eagle (safety program) to hunter safety," Allen said. "I have done the concealed weapons permits and helped move those through the legislature."

"I believe we have to continue and bolster our national defense, because this is one of the areas that there are a lot of enemies out there going after us."

Pointing to the "Axis of Evil," he said it is important the country provide troops with the necessary support to defeat enemies.

"We know that currently the Obama administration is cutting back on the appropriate equipment, whether it be radio antennas or field gear — like the kind made here in Antrim County," he said.

From there, he said, the military has to continue to adapting to fight new types of threats.



Dan Benishek
Republican

"The health care bill is a complete disaster. As a physician, I'm acutely aware of the problems in our health care system and this health care bill doesn't address any of those problems."

Benishek said "it simply adds another layer of politics, bureaucrats and government lawyers overseeing the health care system."

He called for free market reform in the health insurance business and tax credits for employers, as well as health savings accounts.

"I believe primary function of the second amendment is to protect ourselves from tyranny. It's all well and good to be a hunter and protect yourself in your home, but we have the rights as citizens to be armed if we have a tyrannical government, so they cannot just make us do what they want."

He added that guns enable citizens to overthrow such governments, but without guns people "would not be able to do that."

"Well of course I believe in a strong national defense. We shouldn't be going to war lightly either. I don't think we should be putting troops on the ground without a declaration of war."

He said the nine-year war in Afghanistan has not been done right, citing his own daughter's service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We have to treasure of our children, the treasure of our money in wars that I'm not sure there is a good plan for."

Benishek added the country needs to secure its borders to defend against terrorists.