Congressman Blumenauer joined Health and Human Services Regional Director Susan Johnson and the Main Street Alliance of Oregon to celebrate the one year anniversary of the Affordable Care Act.

At an event hosted by business owner Jim Houser of the Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Congressman Blumenauer discussed the benefits of the Affordable Care Act already in place – from reforms preventing insurance companies cutting off their patients when they get sick to new protections for children with pre-existing conditions – and looked forward to the implementation of the state health care exchanges that would help individuals and businesses purchase higher quality health insurance packages in a competitive and transparent marketplace. “If I had my way, we’d stop talking about putting sand in the gears and trying to delay it,” said Blumenauer. “We ought to accelerate this program.”

Regional Director Johnson arrived at the event from an AARP gathering where seniors were celebrating Medicare reforms like closing of the prescription drug ‘donut hole’ and the free annual wellness visit. Jim Houser explained how the new business tax credits helped him keep providing health insurance coverage to his employees.