Washington, DC - After a year of debate and a lot of hard work, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) along with many of his House and Senate colleagues joined President Obama this morning in the East Room of the White House for the signing of the comprehensive health care bill into law. Hinchey helped the House pass the law Sunday night.

"This moment has been nearly a century in the making," said Hinchey. "The signing of comprehensive health care reform into law is a landmark achievement in the effort to ensure that every American has access to affordable, high-quality health insurance. I'm so proud to have joined President Obama for this historic occasion."

Hinchey voted in favor of the comprehensive reform legislation that became law today. In his congressional district alone, the bill will improve benefits for 415,000 who already have health insurance; provide tax credits to 158,000 families and 15,100 small businesses to make health care more affordable; improve Medicare benefits for 109,000 beneficiaries; extend coverage to 47,000 uninsured residents; and allow 68,000 young adults to obtain coverage through their parents' insurance. Families who are self-employed, unemployed, or work for a small business will have access to the same types of private health insurance choices that members of Congress have through a competitive health insurance exchange that keeps costs down.