

Congressman Pence held a town hall meeting in New Castle, drawing over 150 constituents. Pictures from the event are available [HERE](#) and a WISH TV 8 news story on the town hall is available [HERE](#) :



[Pence hears health care concerns](#)

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NEW CASTLE, Ind. (WISH) - Around the country Wednesday there more town hall meetings and more arguments about health care reform. Analysts say they can't remember an issue, in modern times anyway, that's drawn so many people to so many meetings.

Wednesday night, Congressman Mike Pence met with voters in New Castle. The evening had some of the drama that has become common at the meetings.

One man at the meeting, who said he's a cancer patient, said if health care reform is passed, he's a dead man.

Congressman Pence rejects criticism that people are misinformed about the proposals.

"Frankly, my constituents at these town hall meetings are better informed than I've ever seen," insisted Pence.

Pence said he sees a "profound" concern about the rising deficit among the people in his district and he said that could be addressed by changing the demands for medical tests. Too often, he says, doctors order tests less to treat their patients than to protect themselves from lawsuits.

"Ending the era of defensive medicine would do more to take the extraordinary escalation of costs out of our health care economy than almost anything else," said Pence.

Pence said the pace of the push for reform also concerns people. But one member of the audience said it's even more basic than that.

"They just want to be heard. They want the congressmen to show the same respect for them -- because they are working for us," said the audience member.