

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 14, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader, House of Representatives
H-107, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Hoyer:

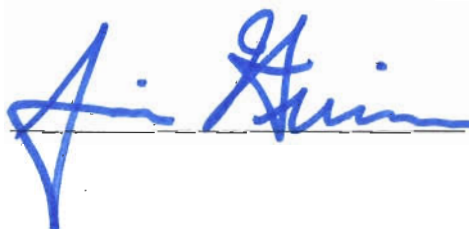
Last week, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) reported on two significant aspects of the Senate Finance Committee's version of healthcare reform legislation. First, the comprehensive cost of that bill would be significantly lower than President Obama's stated goal of \$900 billion or less. Second, the CBO reported an \$81 billion reduction of the deficit, indicating that the bill takes steps to drive down the skyrocketing cost of healthcare.

We are still waiting for the CBO's final assessment of the bill. However, CBO Director Doug Elmendorf has already indicated that the bill being considered by the House does nothing to rein in the cost of healthcare, and therefore may not be sustainable outside the ten-year budget window. Those circumstances all but guarantee a weak budget outlook in the second ten years, a prospect we cannot ignore as we struggle to determine what will best serve our constituents.

We may disagree about the specific goals that healthcare reform must attain, but we can certainly agree that we must be able to sustain any policies we enact over the long-term. Sustainability requires that the burden on the American taxpayer and the federal budget be limited. To that end, we will be unable to support any healthcare legislation that doesn't meet the President's goals of driving down and holding down the cost of healthcare, as determined by CBO.

We look forward to continuing to work with you, the Congressional leadership, and administration officials to achieve these critical goals.

Sincerely,



Michael E. McMahon

J. Lopez

Walt Munnich

Kurt Schrader

Harry Teague

Mauro Benz

Stuart

Walter Gifford

Bob

Lang Kinsel

H. A. S. S. S.

Dick Lipinski

Devin M.

Debbie Halverson

Eric ^{fit} ~~Paul~~

Tom Turner

~~Walt~~

J. Gifford

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Am D. Dady

Sam F. Hill

Carl Somers

John Allen

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Ben Chandler

Joseph Davis

Bobby Bryant

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