

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 23, 2009

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
Chairman
Committee on Ways & Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rangel:

As you craft health reform legislation in your respective Committees, we are writing to ask you to include provisions that will improve health care for millions, drastically reduce medical bankruptcies, and control rising health care costs. We request that you remove federal barriers that prevent states from enacting single payer health care plans, and provide financial assistance for the implementation of such plans.

Your past support of national single payer health care suggests you are already aware that it eliminates enough spending on administrative waste to grant full coverage of all medically necessary care, provides a single high standard of care for all, controls costs, and shifts control of care from health insurance companies to the doctor and the patient. It is the only time-tested health care insurance mechanism to do so, short of the popular and effective government-run health care plans like those provided to the military and veterans.

Doctor and patient-run health care legislation enjoys significant support in Congress and across the country. The United States National Health Care Act, HR 676, has 83 cosponsors so far and had 93 in the 110th session of Congress, including the Chairs of key Committees and Subcommittees. Fifty nine percent of American doctors support single payer; it also has the endorsements of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the American College of Physicians.

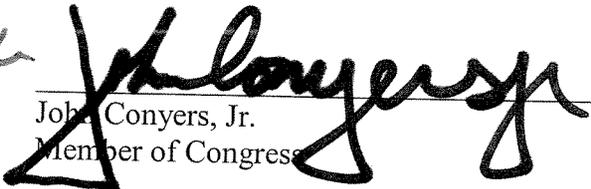
As states weigh their options to reduce costs and increase the quality and quantity of coverage, they are turning increasingly to doctor and patient-run health care. In the last three years, the California State legislature has twice passed such a bill. Pennsylvania, Colorado, Illinois, Montana, New York, Washington, Minnesota and Ohio are also home to single payer bills with strong grassroots movements behind them. Unfortunately, states face significant barriers to enacting such laws, including potential ERISA preemption, which could prevent states from enacting a single payer plan. In addition, some states would benefit greatly from federal financial assistance to facilitate the transition.

As you progress toward the difficult task of overseeing the formation of health care reform legislation, please consider the needs of states that wish to deploy a health care model that is known to work. Thank you for your consideration.

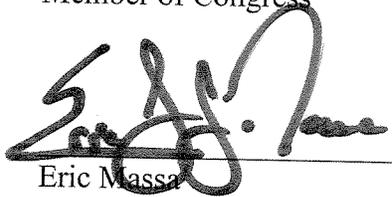
Sincerely,



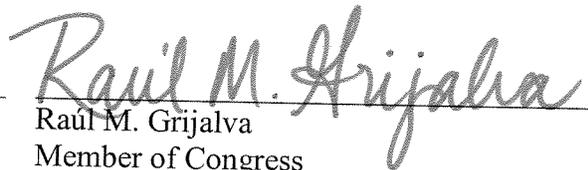
Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Eric Massa
Member of Congress



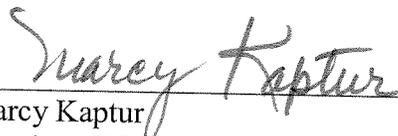
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress



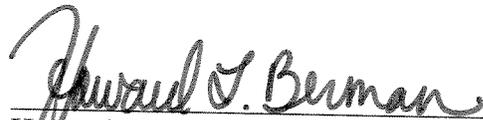
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



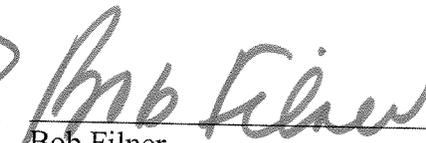
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Howard Berman
Member of Congress



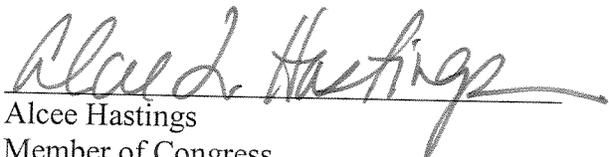
Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Bob Filner
Member of Congress



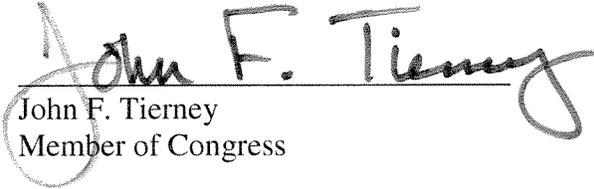
Phil Hare
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



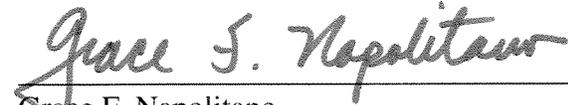
Barney Frank
Member of Congress



John F. Tierney
Member of Congress



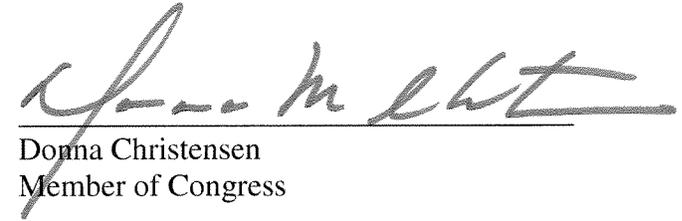
Jerry F. Costello
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



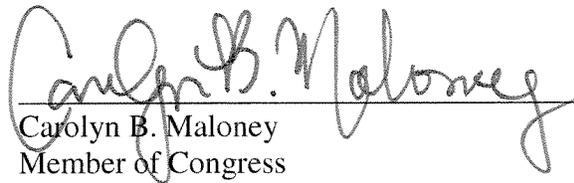
Laura Richardson
Member of Congress



Donna Christensen
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



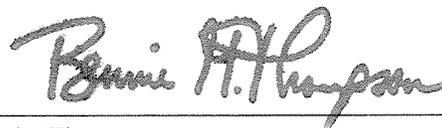
Ed Pastor
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



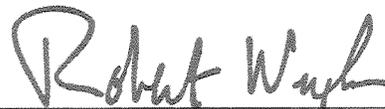
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



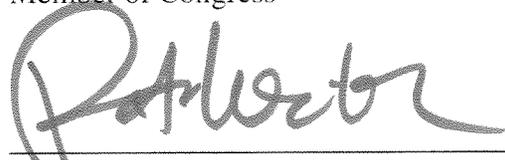
Bennie Thompson
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Joe Baca
Member of Congress



Robert Wexler
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



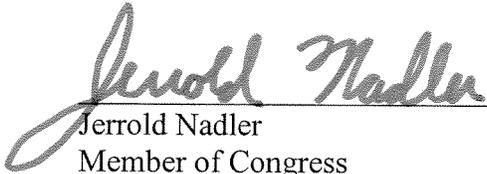
David Loeb sack
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
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Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Jesse Jackson Jr.
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
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Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



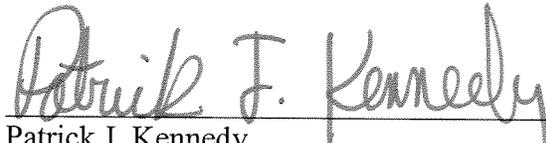
John W. Olver
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Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress



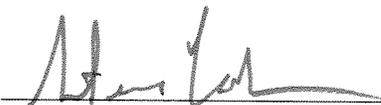
Patrick J. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



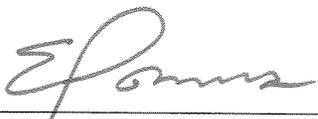
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



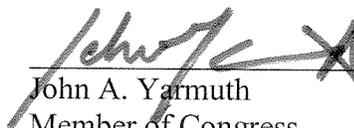
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress



John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress



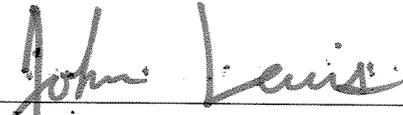
Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



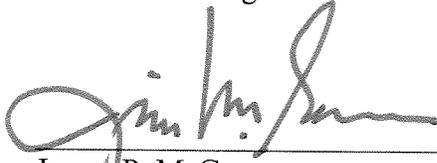
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



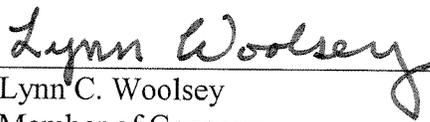
John Lewis
Member of Congress



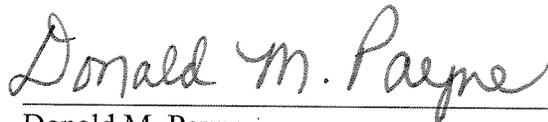
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Diane E. Watson
Member of Congress



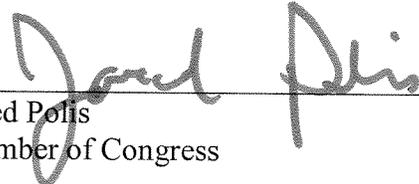
Lynn C. Woolsey
Member of Congress



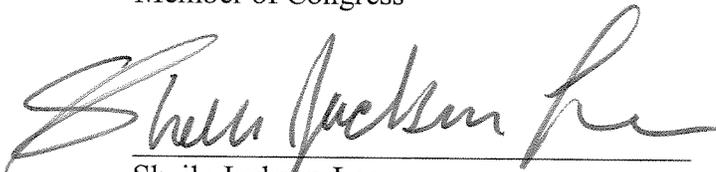
Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



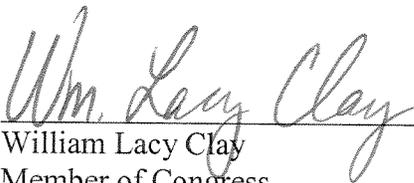
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



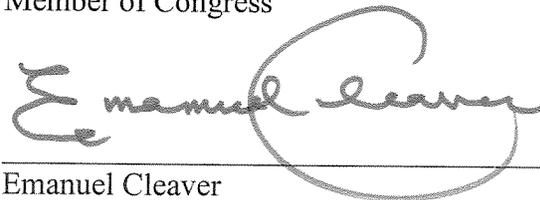
Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress



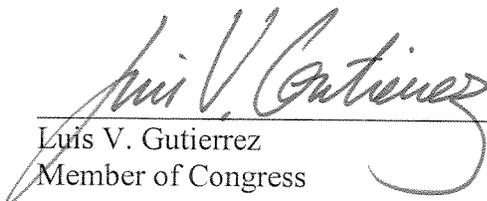
André Carson
Member of Congress



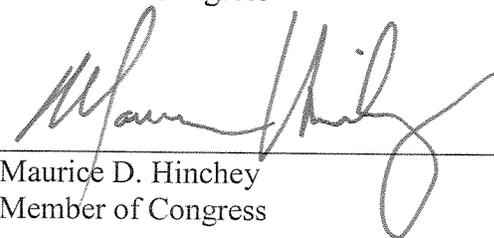
William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



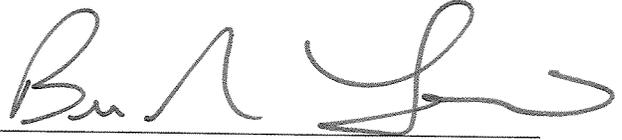
Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress



William D. Delahunt
Member of Congress