

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 23, 2009

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman:

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.

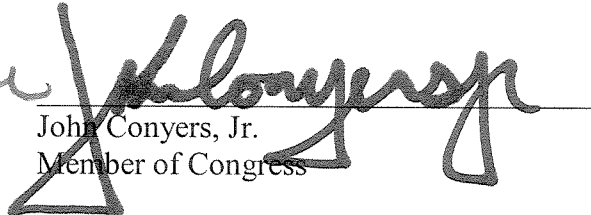
As states weigh their options to reduce costs and increase the quality and quantity of coverage, they are turning increasingly to doctor and patient-run health care. In the last three years, the California State legislature has twice passed such a bill. Pennsylvania, Colorado, Illinois, Montana, New 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.

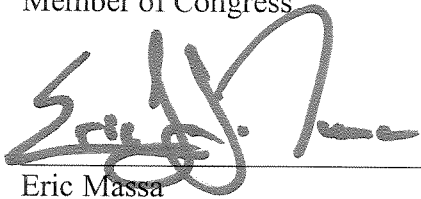
Sincerely,



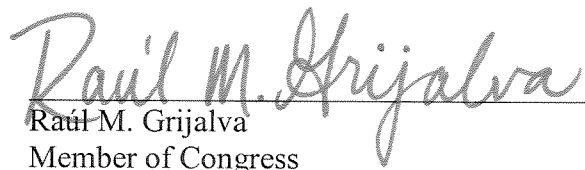
Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Eric Massa
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



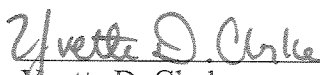
Neil Abercrombie
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Marcy Kaptur
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Danny K. Davis
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Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Howard Berman
Member of Congress



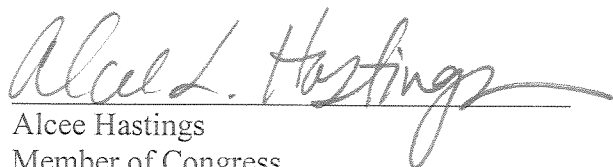
Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



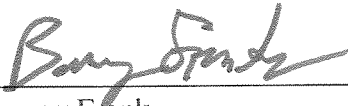
Bob Filner
Member of Congress



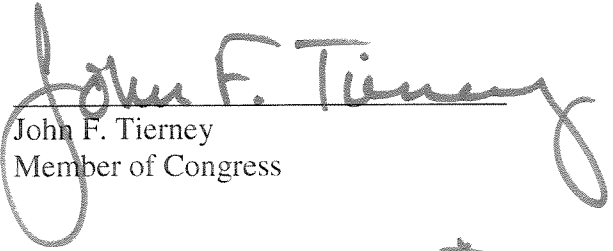
Phil Hare
Member of Congress



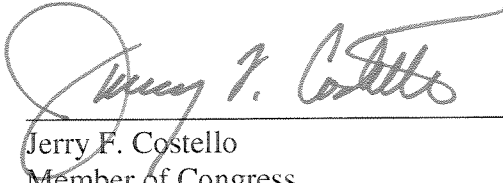
Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



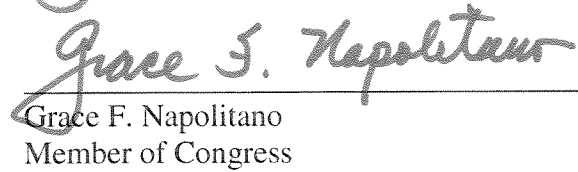
Barney Frank
Member of Congress



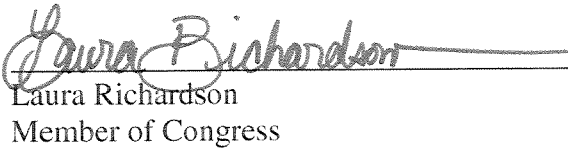
John F. Tierney
Member of Congress



Jerry F. Costello
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



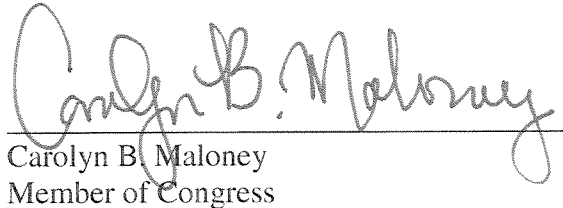
Laura Richardson
Member of Congress



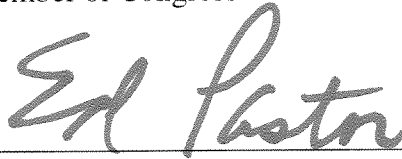
Donna Christensen
Member of Congress



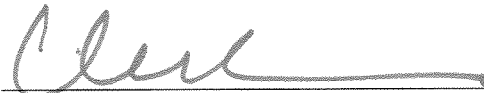
Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Ed Pastor
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



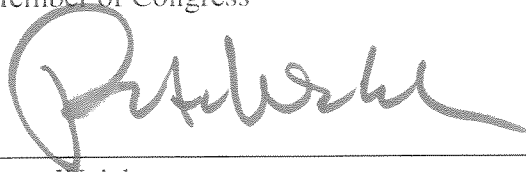
Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress



Joe Baca
Member of Congress



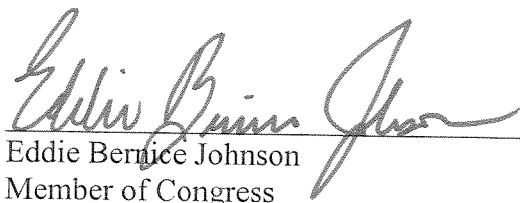
Robert Wexler
Member of Congress

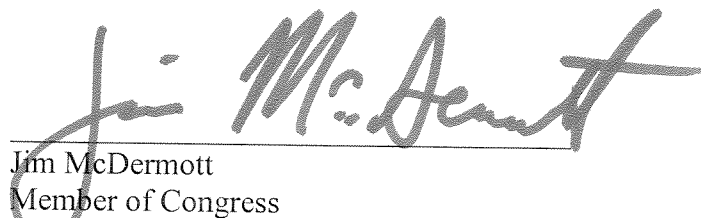


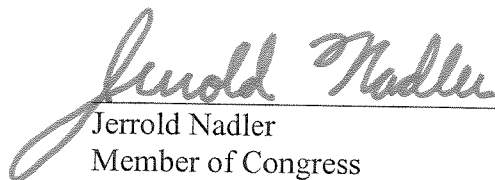
Peter Welch
Member of Congress

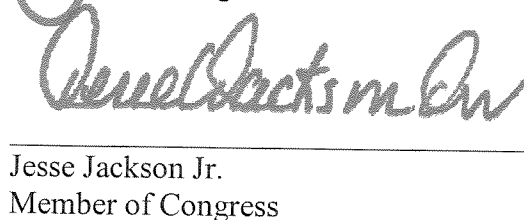


David Loebsack
Member of Congress

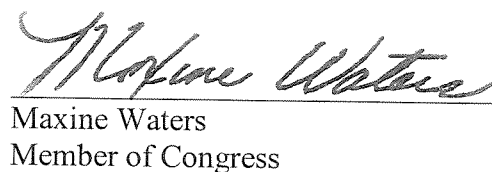

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

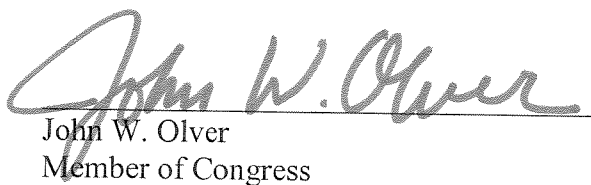

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress


Jesse Jackson Jr.
Member of Congress

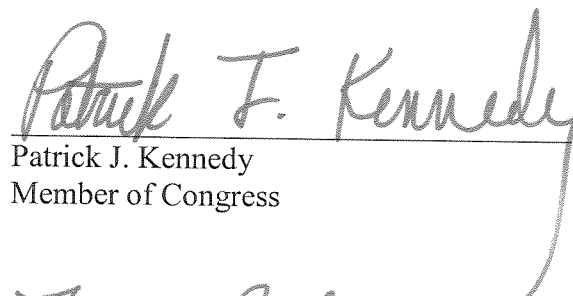

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

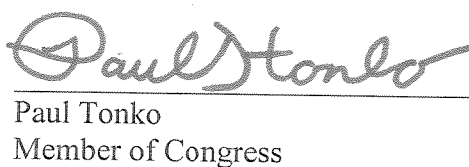

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

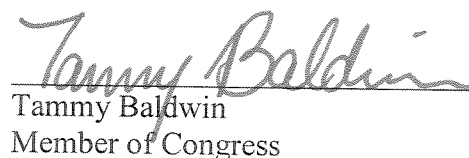

John W. Olver
Member of Congress

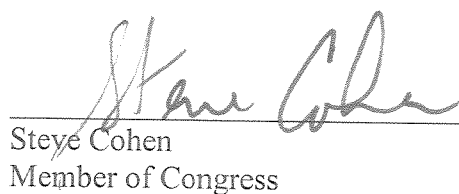

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

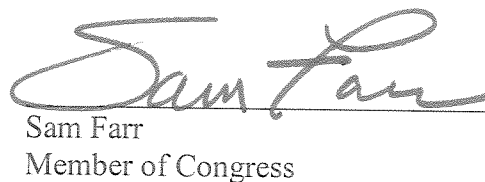

Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress

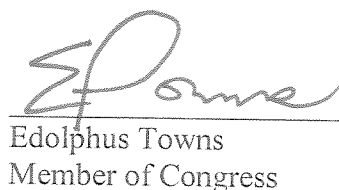

Patrick J. Kennedy
Member of Congress

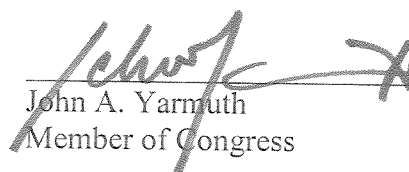

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress


Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress


Steve Cohen
Member of Congress


Sam Farr
Member of Congress

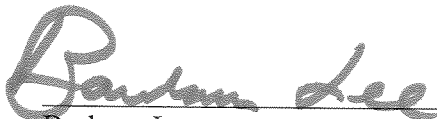

Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress


John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress

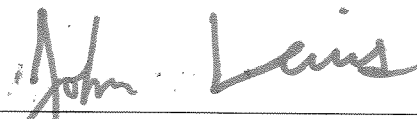


Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

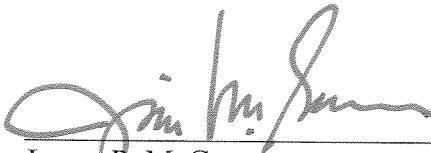
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



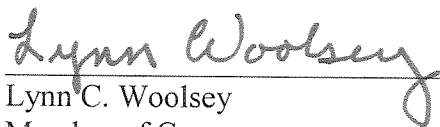
John Lewis
Member of Congress



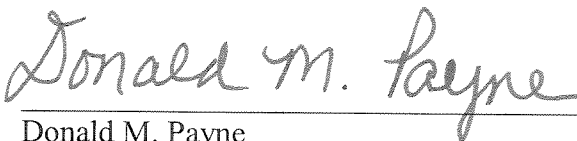
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress




Diane E. Watson
Member of Congress



Lynn C. Woolsey
Member of Congress



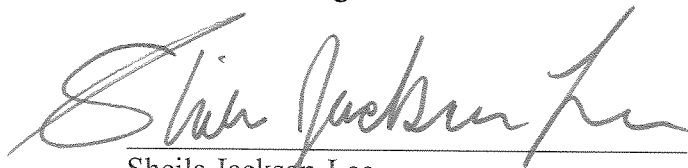
Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress




Jared Polis
Member of Congress



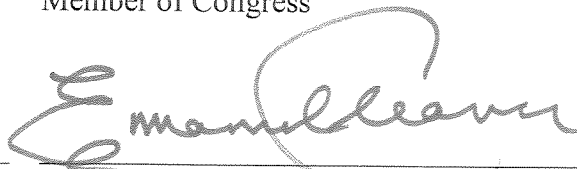
Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress



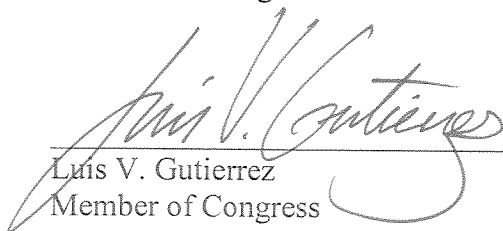
André Carson
Member of Congress



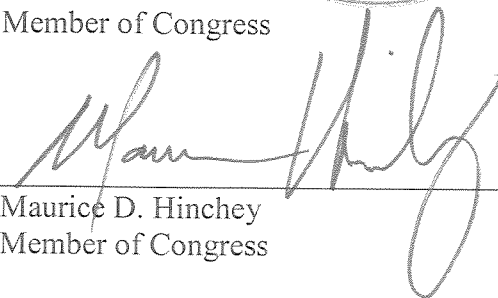
William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



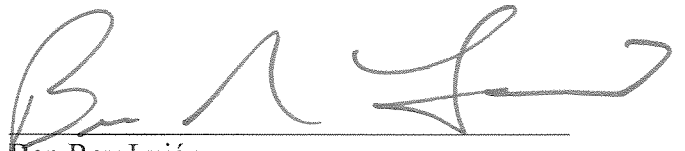
Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress



William D. Delahunt
Member of Congress