

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 22, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
Office of the Speaker
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John A. Boehner
House Republican Leader
Office of the House Republican Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
House Majority Leader
Office of the Majority Leader
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, House Majority Leader Hoyer, and House Republican Leader Boehner:

We are very concerned about the potential difficulty states may encounter as a result of health care legislation. Any final health care bill negotiated between the House of Representatives and the Senate should not result in inequitable treatment or unfunded mandates on the state of Georgia.

As you are aware, both the House and Senate bills expand coverage under Medicaid expansion to 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and 133% FPL, respectively. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, such a mandate in which states would be forced to pick up part of the funds for newly eligible individuals would cost \$34 billion in the House bill and \$26 billion in the Senate bill.

Georgia has estimated that the cost of the House and Senate passed unfunded mandates, for just new enrollees, would cost a staggering \$2.64 billion under the House version (not including the Stimulus extension or a Primary Care Reimbursement increase) and anywhere from \$1.54 billion to \$1.79 billion under the Senate version.

This raises many concerns since Georgia currently cannot afford the cost of expanding Medicaid under the House and Senate bills. Due to the crippled economy, Georgia is facing significant budget problems and has been forced to make cuts to current services including K-12 education, public assistance, corrections, transportation and others.

Georgia is not alone in its concerns about being able to pay for this unfunded mandate. On October 21, 2009, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) wrote the House and Senate Leadership stating:

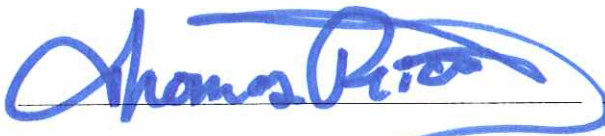
NCSL's paramount priority regarding national health reform is the legislation's treatment of Medicaid and we oppose unconditionally any

provisions related to Medicaid that would shift costs to states. We urge you in the strongest possible terms to provide full funding for new mandatory eligibility categories, services and increases for reimbursement. We support 100 percent federal matching payments for Medicaid expansions. A lesser commitment from the federal government would shift billions of costs to states and would have serious short and long-term consequences for state budgets.

Under the Senate bill, however, it appears that only a handful of states including Nebraska, Louisiana, Vermont and Massachusetts, are going to receive special treatment through additional federal Medicaid funds, leaving the remaining 46 states on the hook to pick up the full tab. We urge you to remove any special deals and unfunded mandates from the final bill language.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

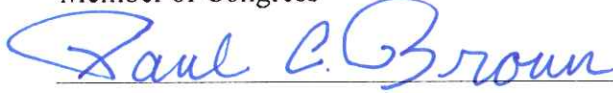
Sincerely,



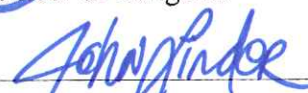
Tom Price, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jack Kingston
Member of Congress



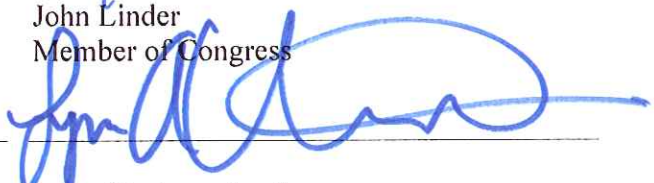
Paul Broun, M.D.
Member of Congress



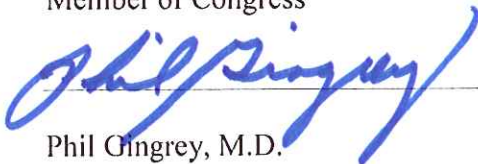
John Linder
Member of Congress



Nathan Deal
Member of Congress



Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress



Phil Gingrey, M.D.
Member of Congress