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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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November 4, 2009

The Honorable Edolphus Towns
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Towns:

We write to reiterate concerns about the effects of proposed health care reform legislation on federal employees, stated in the Ranking Member's previous letter, dated July 17, 2009. In your July 20, 2009 response, you stated that you were "working with the Committees of primary jurisdiction on other issues within H.R. 3200 that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform," and assured the Ranking Member that the legislation had "limited impact" on Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). The Republican Members of this Committee have not received an account of that work, or further explanation of what the "limited impact" on FEHBP actually entails.

As you know, a new version of health care reform legislation, H.R. 3962, the "Affordable Health Care for America Act," is scheduled to be voted on by the House this week. H.R. 3962 also fails to resolve questions regarding changes to the FEHBP, and we remain concerned about the effects the legislation may have on federal employees.

The Republican Members of this Committee have never had an opportunity to have their questions regarding the Democratic health care reform proposals answered. We believe the legislation in its current form may have a significant impact on FEHBP, including the possibility that FEHBP may not be deemed a "Qualified Health Benefits Plan" for purposes of this bill, which will have the effect of either forcing federal employees out of their current coverage and into the "public option," or subjecting them to a tax for failure to obtain "acceptable health coverage."

Members of this Committee still have an opportunity to examine the portions of the bill within our jurisdiction. We urge you to reconsider your previous decision to waive jurisdiction, and request that you hold a hearing and/or a mark-up of H.R. 3962 as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



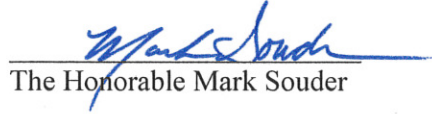
Darrell Issa, Ranking Member



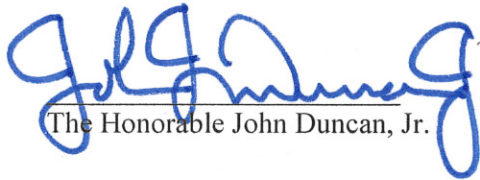
The Honorable Dan Burton



The Honorable John Mica



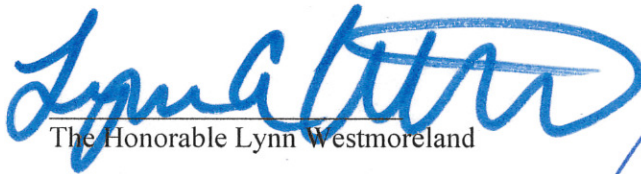
The Honorable Mark Souder



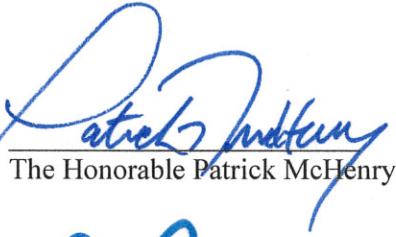
The Honorable John Duncan, Jr.



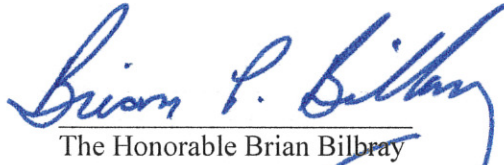
The Honorable Michael Turner



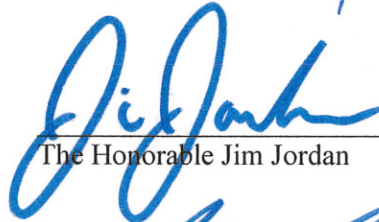
The Honorable Lynn Westmoreland



The Honorable Patrick McHenry



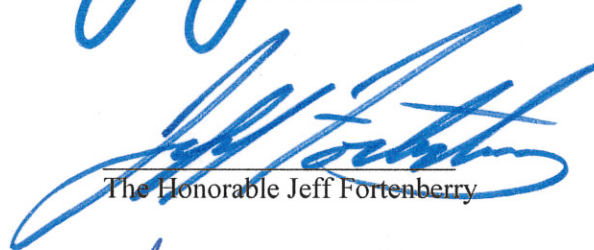
The Honorable Brian Bilbray



The Honorable Jim Jordan



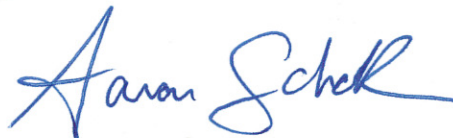
The Honorable Jeff Flake



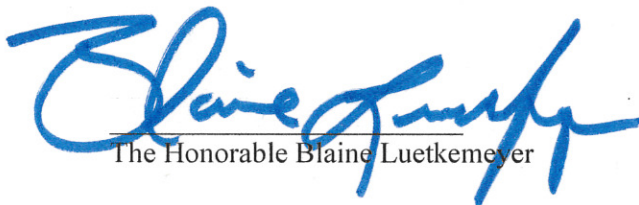
The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry



The Honorable Jason Chaffetz



The Honorable Aaron Schock



The Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer



The Honorable Joseph Cao