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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0549**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
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COURTS AND COMPETITION POLICY

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

January 12, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-107, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller  
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker, Leader Hoyer, Chairman Waxman, Chairman Rangel, and Chairman Miller,

As discussions between the House and Senate continue on a final health care reform package, I urge you to consider H.R. 3438, as a reasonable alternative to existing House and Senate reform bill language.

Last year, I introduced H.R. 3438, the "Access to Insurance for All Americans Act" to give Americans the same health care choices that members of Congress have. In just eleven pages, my bill achieves the primary goals of reform including offering multiple high-quality private health insurance plans, insurance portability across jobs and state lines, and no denial of coverage due to pre-existing conditions. By using the framework of the Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan (FEHBP), the cost would remain low and the program would be simple to implement.

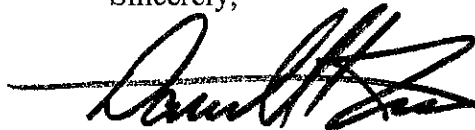
This plan has bipartisan appeal. In 1980, the late Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) said, "if health insurance is good enough for the president, vice president, and the Congress of

the United States, then it is good enough for all of you and for every family in America.<sup>1</sup>” Both Secretary Hillary Clinton and then Senator Barack Obama supported the idea while on the campaign trail in 2008, with Obama even promising to provide every American with “the option of buying into the same kind of federal pool that both Senator McCain and I enjoy as federal employees.<sup>2</sup>”

The public overwhelmingly supports this proposal. A September 2009 Rasmussen public opinion poll found 78% of U.S. voters believe all Americans should “be allowed to purchase the same health insurance plan that members of Congress use.<sup>3</sup>” Conversely, a Rasmussen poll released January 11, 2010, determined the majority of Americans are opposed to the existing reform bills passed by Congress.<sup>4</sup>

By including H.R. 3438 in the final health care package we can increase coverage, maintain quality, and lower costs: achieving the goals of health care reform. I urge your thoughtful consideration of this approach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darrell Issa', written over a horizontal line.

Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup>Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts, speaking at the 1980 Democratic Convention, on August 12, 1980.

<sup>2</sup> Senator Obama of Illinois, speaking at the Hofstra University Presidential Debate, on October 15, 2008.

<sup>3</sup> Rasmussen Reports, “78% Say All Americans Should Be Able To Buy The Health Insurance That Congress Has,” [http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public\\_content/politics/current\\_events/healthcare/september\\_2009/78\\_say\\_all\\_americans\\_should\\_be\\_able\\_to\\_buy\\_the\\_health\\_insurance\\_that\\_congress\\_has](http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/current_events/healthcare/september_2009/78_say_all_americans_should_be_able_to_buy_the_health_insurance_that_congress_has) (accessed January 12, 2010).

<sup>4</sup> Rasmussen Reports, “17% Expect Health Care Plan To Lower Costs, 57% Expect Costs to Go Up,” [http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public\\_content/politics/current\\_events/healthcare/september\\_2009/health\\_care\\_reform](http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/current_events/healthcare/september_2009/health_care_reform) (accessed January 12, 2010).