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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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September 10, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We write to follow up on our letter dated July 30, 2010, requesting that the Secretary of Health and Human Services testify before the Committee on Energy and Commerce. Since we sent that letter, Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said during an interview with ABC News Radio on August 30, 2010, “[T]here is still a great deal of confusion about what is in [the health care law] and what isn’t.” The Secretary concluded that the administration had “a lot of reeducation to do.” In light of that statement, we reiterate our request that you invite Secretary Sebelius to testify before the Committee on the implementation and administration of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). We have received no response to our previous letter, but we continue to believe that a hearing with Secretary Sebelius would provide both an opportunity for the Secretary to explain her “reeducation” statement, as well as provide an opportunity for Members on both sides of the aisle to obtain the latest information about the implementation of the PPACA for the benefit of our constituents.

It has now been six months since the passage of the PPACA, and this Committee has yet to hear from Secretary Sebelius on her efforts to administer the law. Secretary Sebelius is the head of the department now responsible for overseeing a dramatic change to one-fifth of the American economy, and Members of Congress should have the opportunity to discuss the PPACA with her.

Finally, we wish to note that this Committee should not avoid the important oversight work it has done in the past, especially when that oversight involves a law affecting every American. In the months leading up to the passage of the PPACA, the Subcommittee on Health

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and the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a number of hearings in order to build support for the passage of a new health care law.

Since its passage, however, these committees have not held *one* hearing specifically on the PPACA. As the Ranking Members of the Full Committee and the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, we believe this is unacceptable. Inviting Secretary Sebelius to testify before this Committee, so that we may understand her "reeducation" of the American public, would be a good start to a public conversation about the new health care law.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

  
Joe Barton  
Ranking Member

  
Michael C. Burgess  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: The Honorable Bart Stupak, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations