

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

September 15, 2009

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

The Honorable John Boehner  
Office of the House Republican Leader  
H-204 United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker and Republican Leader Boehner:

As discussion on health care reform continues, we urge you to include measures that will prevent illegal immigrants from receiving taxpayer-funded benefits in any health care reform bill considered by the House. While the House bill currently says illegal immigrants cannot get benefits, the statement is meaningless because the bill contains no verification mechanism to ensure that illegal immigrants will not receive benefits.

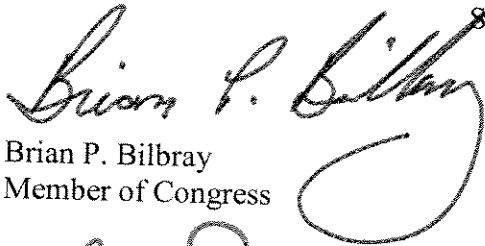
The non-partisan Congressional Research Service (CRS) recently issued some troubling information on the immigration-related provisions of the current health care bill, H.R. 3200. Specifically, the new CRS Report R40773, *Treatment of Noncitizens in H.R. 3200*, points out the following:

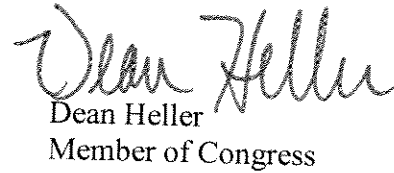
- CRS states that H.R. 3200 “does not contain any restrictions on noncitizens—whether legally or illegally present, or in the United States temporarily or permanently—participating in the [taxpayer-subsidized Health Insurance] Exchange.”
- While section 142(a)(3) of H.R. 3200 states the responsibility of the Health Choices Commissioner to administer the “individual affordability credits under subtitle C of title II, including determination of eligibility for such credits,” no specific enforcement mechanism is outlined in the bill.
- CRS also notes that “there could be instances where some family members would meet the definition of an eligible individual for purposes of the credit, while other family members would not. For example, in a family consisting of a U.S. citizen married to an unauthorized alien and a U.S. citizen child, the U.S. citizen spouse and child could meet the criteria for being a credit-eligible individual, while the unauthorized alien spouse would not meet the criteria. H.R. 3200 does not expressly address how such a situation would be treated. Therefore, it appears that the Health Choices Commissioner would be responsible for determining how the credits would be administered in the case of mixed-status families.”

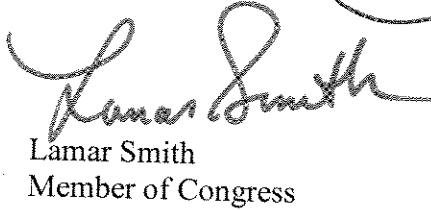
Our constituents find these provisions unacceptable. The Pew Hispanic Center estimated that there are almost two million families in the United States where illegal immigrant parents have U.S.-born children, and even more mixed-status families exist. If H.R. 3200 becomes law in its current form, billions in taxpayer funds could go to those who are in our country illegally.

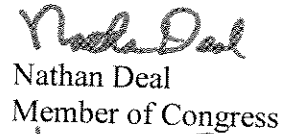
Most of our concerns could be easily addressed by requiring individuals applying for affordability credits to undergo citizenship verification using one of the existing programs used for various social service programs. We urge you to adopt language such as the Heller amendment (offered in the House Ways & Means Committee during the markup of H.R. 3200, July 16, 2009) or the Deal amendment (offered in the House Energy & Commerce Committee markup of H.R. 3200, July 31, 2009) in the final version of any health care reform legislation to close these costly, unnecessarily loopholes.

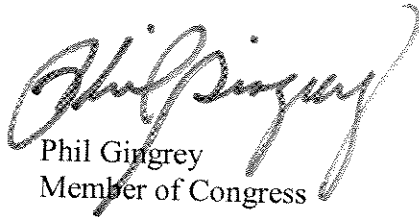
Sincerely,

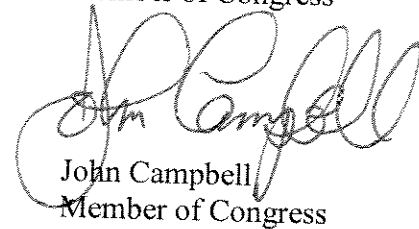
  
Brian P. Bilbray  
Member of Congress

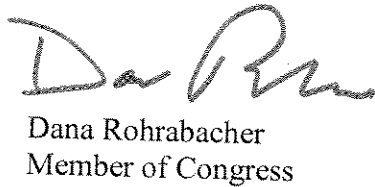
  
Dean Heller  
Member of Congress

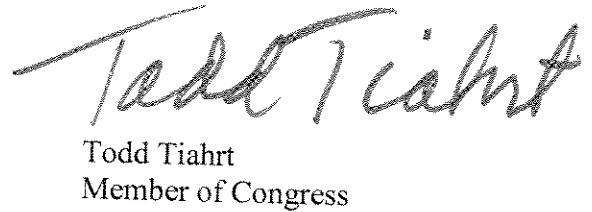
  
Lamar Smith  
Member of Congress

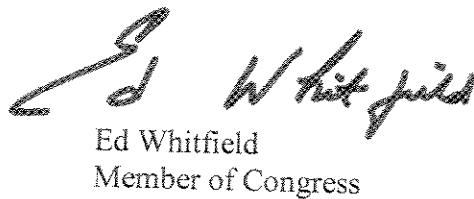
  
Nathan Deal  
Member of Congress

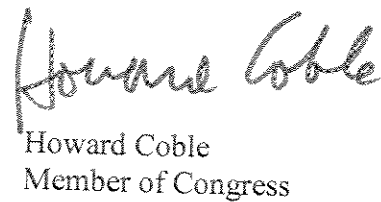
  
Phil Gingrey  
Member of Congress

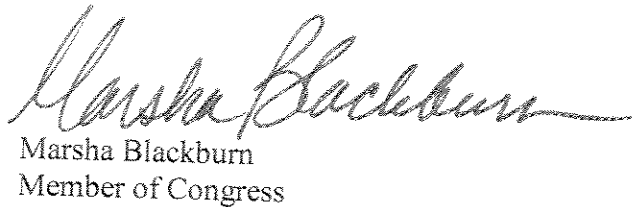
  
John Campbell  
Member of Congress

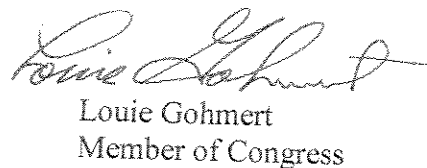
  
Dana Rohrabacher  
Member of Congress

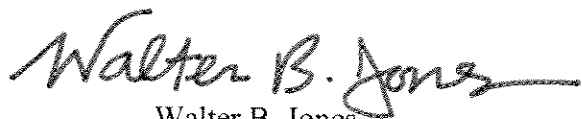
  
Todd Tiahrt  
Member of Congress

  
Ed Whitfield  
Member of Congress

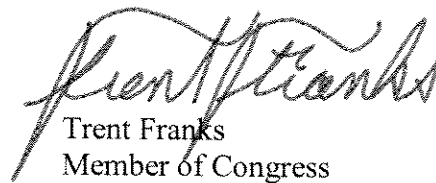
  
Howard Coble  
Member of Congress

  
Marsha Blackburn  
Member of Congress

  
Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



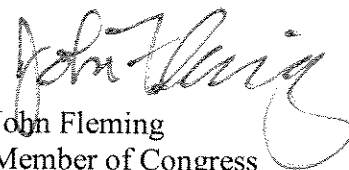
Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress



Trent Franks  
Member of Congress



Spencer Bachus  
Member of Congress



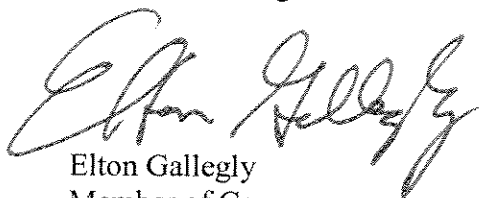
John Fleming  
Member of Congress



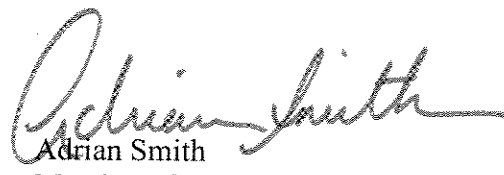
Ed Royce  
Member of Congress



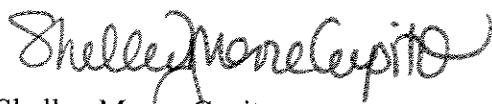
Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



Elton Gallegly  
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress




Shelley Modre Capito  
Member of Congress



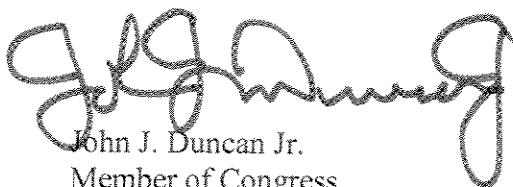
John Boozman  
Member of Congress



Todd Platts  
Member of Congress



Gary G. Miller  
Member of Congress



John J. Duncan Jr.  
Member of Congress



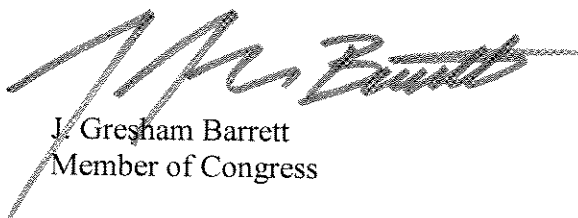
Jack Kingston  
Member of Congress



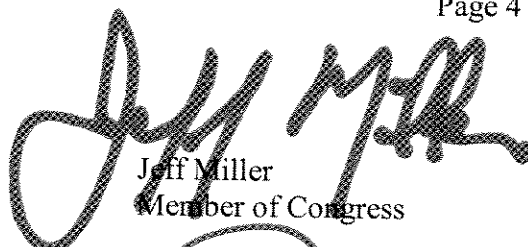
David P. Roe  
Member of Congress



Sue Myrick  
Member of Congress



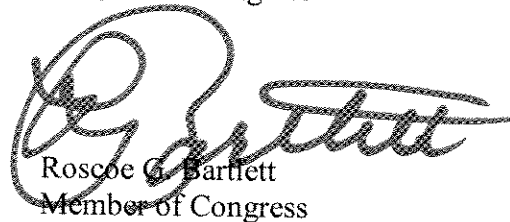
J. Gresham Barrett  
Member of Congress



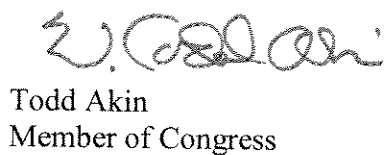
Jeff Miller  
Member of Congress



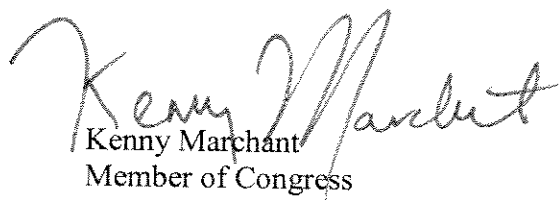
Steve King  
Member of Congress



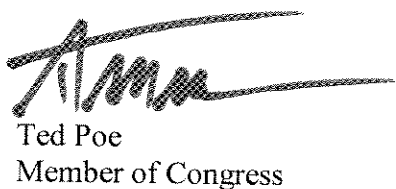
Roscoe G. Bartlett  
Member of Congress



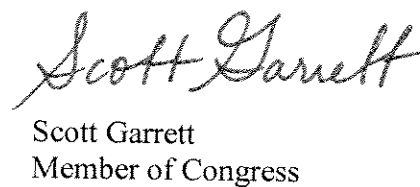
Todd Akin  
Member of Congress



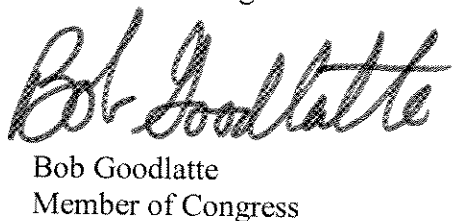
Kenny Marchant  
Member of Congress




Ted Poe  
Member of Congress



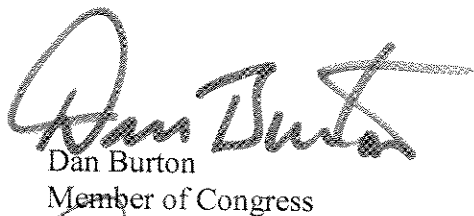
Scott Garrett  
Member of Congress



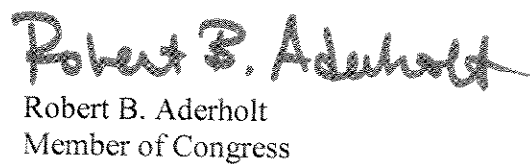
Bob Goodlatte  
Member of Congress



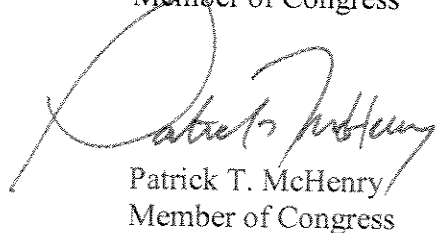
Cliff Stearns  
Member of Congress



Dan Burton  
Member of Congress



Robert B. Aderholt  
Member of Congress



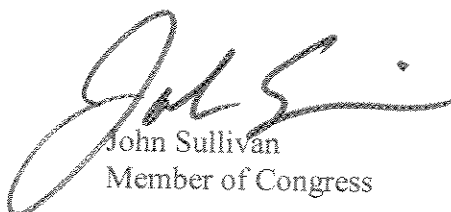
Patrick T. McHenry  
Member of Congress



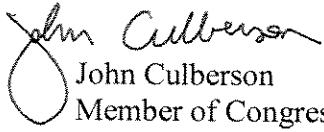
Frank R. Wolf  
Member of Congress

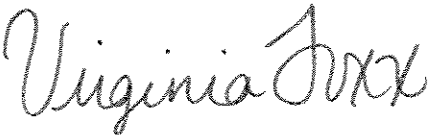



Paul C. Broun  
Member of Congress



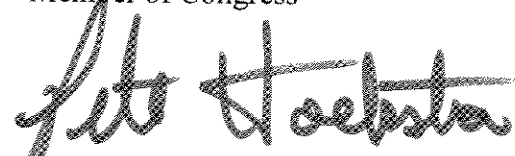
John Sullivan  
Member of Congress


  
John Culberson  
Member of Congress

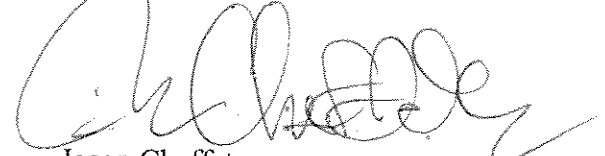
  
Virginia Foxx  
Member of Congress


  
Rodney Alexander  
Member of Congress


  
Bill Posey  
Member of Congress

  
Peter Hoekstra  
Member of Congress

  
Tom Price  
Member of Congress

  
Jason Chaffetz  
Member of Congress

  
Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress

  
Wally Herger  
Member of Congress

  
Mary Fallin  
Member of Congress

Cc: House Ways & Means Committee Chairman and Ranking Member  
House Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman and Ranking Member  
House Education and Labor Committee Chairman and Ranking Member