

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 30, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
Chairman  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Rangel  
Chairman  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller  
Chairman  
House Committee on Education and Labor  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker, Chairman Waxman, Chairman Rangel, and Chairman Miller:

We write to voice our opposition to the negotiated health care reform agreement under consideration in the Energy and Commerce Committee.


We regard the agreement reached by Chairman Waxman and several Blue Dog members of the Committee as fundamentally unacceptable. This agreement is not a step forward toward a good health care bill, but a large step backwards. Any bill that does not provide, at a minimum, for a public option with reimbursement rates based on Medicare rates – not negotiated rates – is unacceptable. It would ensure higher costs for the public plan, and would do nothing to achieve the goal of “keeping insurance companies honest,” and their rates down.

To offset the increased costs incurred by adopting the provisions advocated by the Blue Dog members of the Committee, the agreement would reduce subsidies to low- and middle-income families, requiring them to pay a larger portion of their income for insurance premiums, and would impose an unfunded mandate on the states to pay for what were to have been Federal costs.

In short, this agreement will result in the public, both as insurance purchasers and as taxpayers, paying ever higher rates to insurance companies.

We simply cannot vote for such a proposal.

Sincerely,



*Lynn Woolsey*

Minnie Waters

Judy Ann

Wanda Lindsey

Hank Johnson

Alaine E. Watson

Julie Spicer

Shirley Jack Lee

Ely Cummings

Donna Lee

Emery Moore

Donald Payne

Pete Stark

Tommy

Corrie Brown

Chad

Glenn Hastings

Jim McLean

Phil Wae

Hay & Doynt

Tom

Alan

Yvette D. Clarke

Jim McBeath

Donna F. Edwards

Alvin J. ...  
Franklin D. Roosevelt

John F. Kennedy  
Carolyn C. Lipscomb

Earl Warren  
Dorothy L. Watt

Robert F. Kennedy  
Jerrold Nadler

Luella Kayser-Allard

Margaret Kaptur  
Sam Tan

Michael Mtonda

Laura Richardson

Marcia L. Judge

Mazie K. Heron

Michael E. Caputo

Linda J. Sánchez

John W. Oliver

Keith Elin

Eric J. Joss

Bill Russell

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Banham Lee

Bob Fisher

Quellbert Smith

Wm. Lacy Clay

Dennis J. Kuciel

John Long

Bill Mahant

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Bill

Robert Wayne

Emanuel Leaver



Lynn Woolsey  
Raul Grijalva  
Carolyn Kilpatrick  
Jerry Nadler  
Phil Hare  
Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Keith Ellison  
Earl Blumenauer  
Mel Watts  
Donna Edwards  
John Olver  
Dennis Kucinich  
Laura Richardson  
Maxine Waters  
John Conyers  
Judy Chu  
Maurice Hinchey  
Hank Johnson  
Diane Watson  
Jackie Spier  
Bill Pascrell  
Lloyd Doggett  
Marcy Kaptur  
Mazie Hirono  
Bob Filner  
Linda Sanchez  
Marcia Fudge  
Barbara Lee  
Andre Carson  
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Michael Honda  
Jim McDermott  
William Lacy Clay  
Jim McGovern  
Yvette Clarke  
Eric Massa  
Chellie Pingree  
Jesse Jackson, Jr.  
Elijah Cummings  
Bennie Thompson

Gwen Moore  
Donald Payne  
Fortney "Pete" Stark  
Ed Towns  
Corrine Brown  
Alcee Hastings  
Nydia Valezquez  
Luis Gutierrez  
Grace Napolitano  
Albio Sires  
John Tierney  
Mike Capuano  
Chaka Fattah  
Jose Serrano  
Sam Farr  
Bill Delahunt  
Eddie Bernice Johnson

Added July 31, 2009

Gregorio Sablan  
Robert Wexler  
Emanuel Cleaver