

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 30, 2014

The Honorable Bill Haslam
Governor of Tennessee
Policy Chairman
Republican Governors Public Policy Committee
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 250
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Governor Haslam:

As Republicans, we believe that Washington works best when it listens more, and lectures less. That is why we write to you in your role as Policy Chairman of the Republican Governors Public Policy Committee to ask Republican governors to share with us how Obamacare is impacting your states and solicit your thoughts on how we can work together on policies to replace Obamacare with commonsense, step-by-step reforms that will lower costs and increase access to care.

In our conversations with our constituents, it is clear that Obamacare is broken beyond repair. We have all heard from Americans who have lost insurance policies they were promised they could keep. For those who are able to navigate the myriad glitches and website failures, they frequently confront skyrocketing premiums or higher deductibles for a new Obamacare plan. Once enrolled, too many discover the doctors and hospitals whom they relied upon in the past are not covered in their new plan. We are confident you are hearing the same.

We believe this law is flawed beyond repair, and the only true solution is to repeal Obamacare. But that's not enough. Obamacare must be replaced with reforms that Americans support. We have advocated some of these types of reforms for many years, approaches like insurance policies tailored to those with pre-existing conditions, promoting wellness and reigning in junk lawsuits.

And as Republicans, we recognize that Washington is not the only repository of good ideas - far from it. History tells us that many of our best policy innovations, like welfare reform and tax reform, were adopted by states long before they found a home in the nation's capital. States have long had the principle oversight authority of individual health insurance and Medicaid, so we appreciate that any successful reforms require real partnership with states, not the "one size fits all" mandates at the core of Obamacare. That begins with having a better understanding of the commonsense, conservative approaches governors would take if they were unshackled from Obamacare's worst rules, regulations, and mandates. That's why we want to work with you to

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develop our best ideas together, and show Americans who are frustrated and fearful of Obamacare that there is a better way.

We look forward to hearing from you. More importantly, we look forward to working with you and Republican Governors to repeal Obamacare and replace it with the types of common-sense reforms that will lower costs, increase access to care and Americans support.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mitch McConnell in black ink.

MITCH McCONNELL

Handwritten signature of Lamar Alexander in blue ink.

LAMAR ALEXANDER

Handwritten signature of John Barrasso in blue ink.

JOHN BARRASSO