

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

June 16, 2009

Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Minority Leader John Boehner  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Boehner:

As Members of Congress, we implore you to protect our nation's small businesses when crafting any health care reform legislation. We recognize that our country is facing a health care crisis and decisive action must be taken to fix our current system. However, it is equally important that our health care system supports – rather than impedes – the growth and recovery of our nation's small businesses.

Regardless of party affiliation, we all agree we must take action to reform health care. Skyrocketing costs and declining access have placed a heavy burden on families and businesses. Soon the House and Senate Committees will report a health care reform bill, and while we remain optimistic, we are concerned about the potential negative effects of this bill. Specifically, one of our primary concerns is the impact these proposals will have on America's small businesses.

Under current law, the cost for health care coverage falls heavily on small businesses; too many small businesses have to make the choice between providing health care coverage to their employees or making ends meet. Current federal law awards tax incentives to larger businesses allowing them to provide lower premiums to their employees while also keeping down administrative costs. Unfortunately, small businesses do not receive the same level of government incentives and thus, cannot make the same guarantees to their employees. This crippling cost of health care for small businesses means that only 36 percent of businesses with ten or fewer employees provide health care coverage.

Small businesses are the engine of our economy, employing more than 58 percent of the private workforce and creating 60 to 80 percent of all new jobs. If our economy is to be strong, then we must ensure that our small businesses are strong.

We therefore appeal that any health care reform policy considered by Congress be affordable for both small business owners and their employees. Any proposal that simply replaces one crippling expense with another is not reform at all, and is something we cannot support.

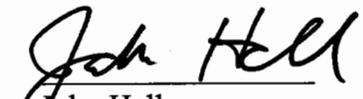
If we are to continue to rely on small businesses to drive our economy forward and lead our country toward recovery, we must protect the health of our small businesses as we work to protect the health of the American people. We look forward to working with you to author a health care package that is accessible and affordable for American small businesses and their employees.

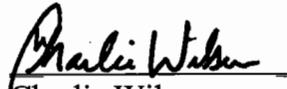
Sincerely,

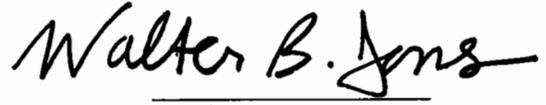
  
Glenn Nye  
Member of Congress

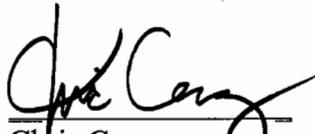
  
Aaron Schock  
Member of Congress

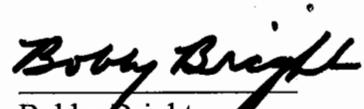
  
Walt Minnick  
Member of Congress

  
John Hall  
Member of Congress

  
Charlie Wilson  
Member of Congress

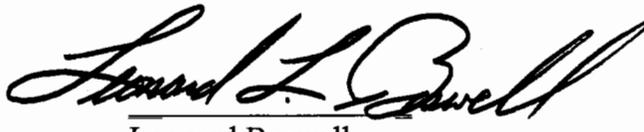
  
Walter Jones  
Member of Congress

  
Chris Carney  
Member of Congress

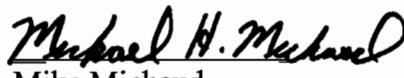
  
Bobby Bright  
Member of Congress

  
Jason Altmire  
Member of Congress

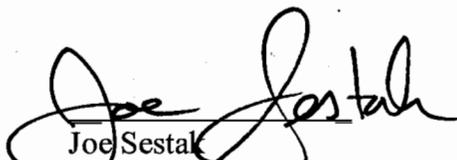
  
Kathleen Dahlkemper  
Member of Congress

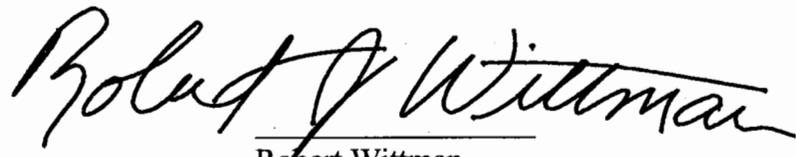
  
Leonard Boswell  
Member of Congress

  
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Michaud  
Member of Congress

  
Steve Kagen  
Member of Congress

  
Joe Sestak  
Member of Congress

  
Robert Wittman  
Member of Congress

  
Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress



Mark Kirk  
Member of Congress



Deborah Halvorson  
Member of Congress



Todd Akin  
Member of Congress



Dennis Moore  
Member of Congress



Ralph Hall  
Member of Congress



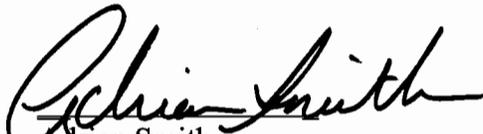
Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress



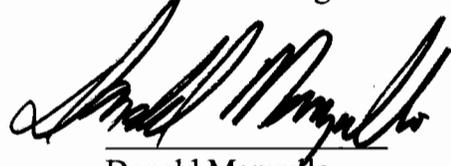
Michael Arcuri  
Member of Congress



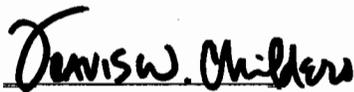
Mark Souder  
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress



Donald Manzullo  
Member of Congress



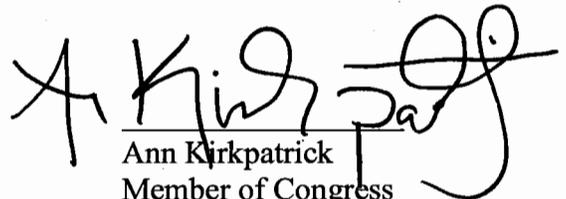
Travis Childers  
Member of Congress



Michele Bachman  
Member of Congress



Parker Griffith  
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress



Lynn Westmoreland  
Member of Congress



Mary Fallin  
Member of Congress



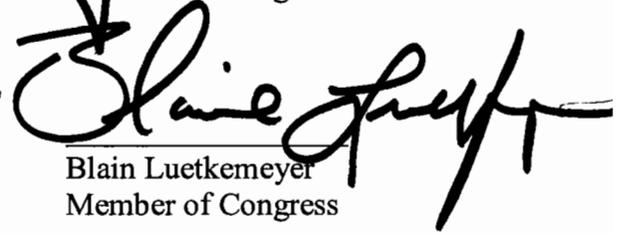
Rodney Alexander  
Member of Congress



Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



Blain Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress



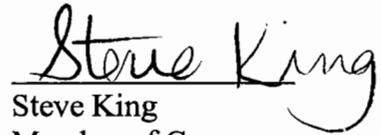
Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



Harry Mitchell  
Member of Congress



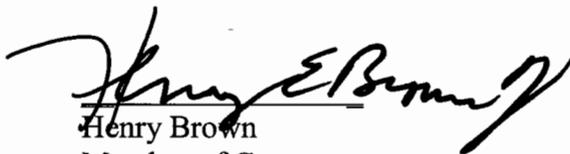
Steve King  
Member of Congress



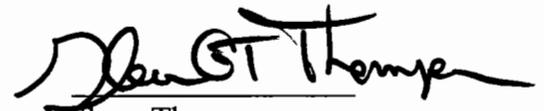
Jerry Moran  
Member of Congress



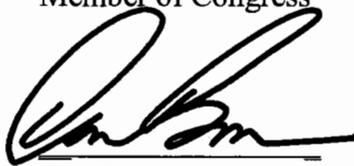
Ginny Brown-Waite  
Member of Congress



Henry Brown  
Member of Congress



Glenn Thompson  
Member of Congress



Dan Boren  
Member of Congress



Mary Bono Mack  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress