

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

November 23, 2010

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator McConnell and Representative Boehner:

We were surprised to read in last Tuesday's article "GOP frosh: Where's my health care?" in *Politico* that some of your incoming members are unhappy with the health benefits they are eligible to purchase under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) – particularly the fact that there is a delay before benefits take effect. Ironically, this is the same predicament millions of Americans currently find themselves in.

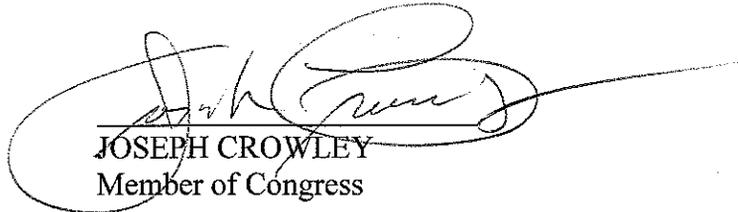
It is amazing that your members would complain about not having health care coverage for a few weeks, even after campaigning to repeal the *Affordable Care Act*, which will help provide coverage to millions of Americans who find themselves without health insurance for months or even years.

We also find it interesting that members of the Republican conference would have no problem taking away health coverage from hard-working Americans, but expect expanded coverage for themselves and their families. The system set up by the *Affordable Care Act* will allow Americans to choose the plan that works best for them from a variety of private insurance plans, just like the FEHB program that members of Congress are now able to access. The uninsured, small-business employees, and the self-employed will now be able to benefit from this same choice and competition.

It begs the question: how many members of the Republican conference will forgo the employer-subsidized FEHBP coverage and experience what so many Americans find themselves forced to face? If your conference wants to deny millions of Americans affordable health care, your members should walk that walk. You cannot enroll in the very kind of coverage that you want for yourselves, and then turn around and deny it to Americans who don't happen to be Members of Congress. We also want to note that in 2011, the Federal government will pay \$10,503.48 of the premiums for each member of Congress with a family policy under the commonly-selected Blue Cross standard plan.

It is important for the American people to know whether the members of Congress and members-elect who have called for the repeal of health insurance reform are going to stand by their opposition by opting out of the care available to them at the expense of hard-working taxpayers. We look forward to your response in the coming days about exactly how many of the members in the Republican conference will be declining their taxpayer-supported health benefits.

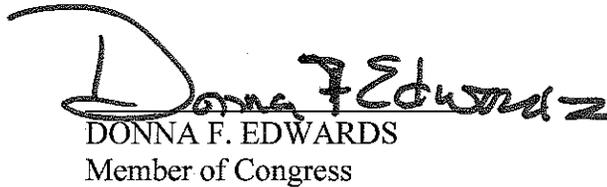
Sincerely,



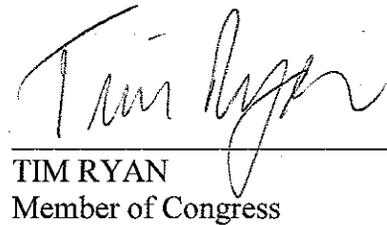
JOSEPH CROWLEY  
Member of Congress



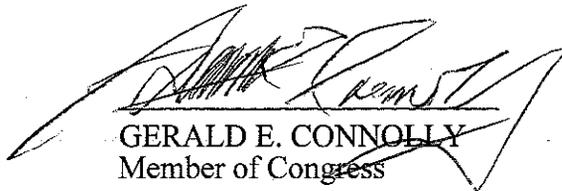
LINDA T. SANCHEZ  
Member of Congress



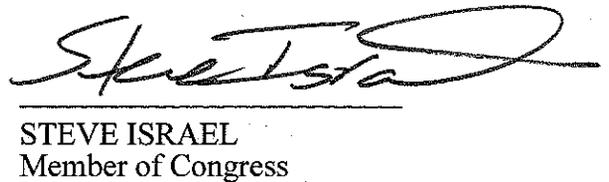
DONNA F. EDWARDS  
Member of Congress



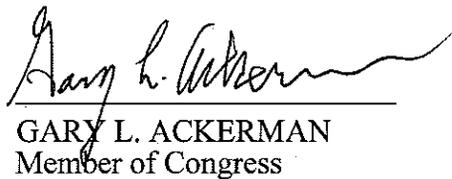
TIM RYAN  
Member of Congress



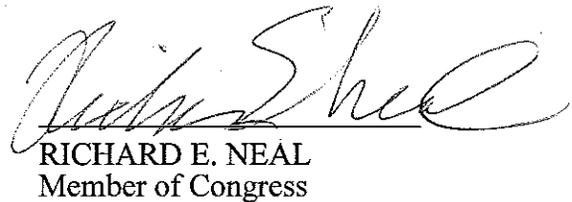
GERALD E. CONNOLLY  
Member of Congress



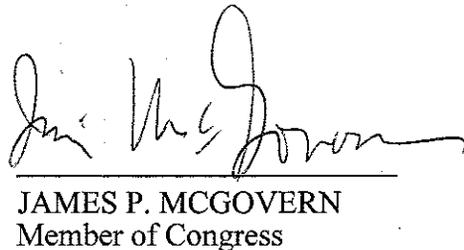
STEVE ISRAEL  
Member of Congress



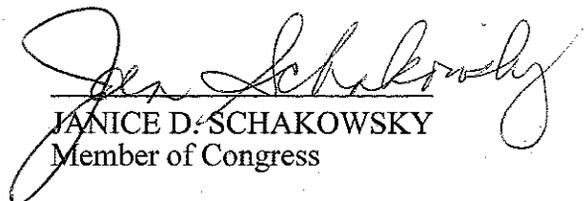
GARY L. ACKERMAN  
Member of Congress



RICHARD E. NEAL  
Member of Congress

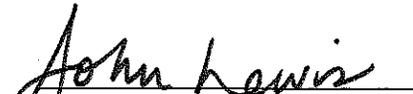


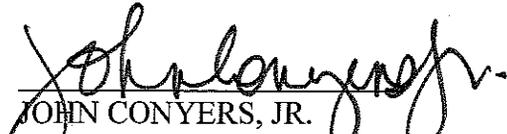
JAMES P. MCGOVERN  
Member of Congress

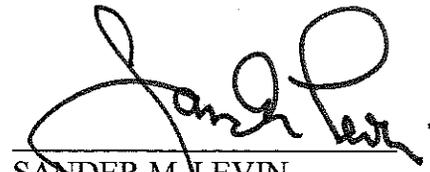


JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY  
Member of Congress

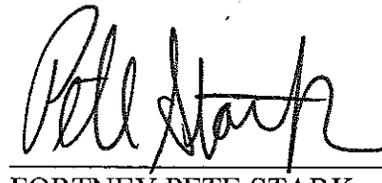
  
GEORGE MILLER  
Member of Congress

  
JOHN LEWIS  
Member of Congress

  
JOHN CONYERS, JR.  
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SANDER M. LEVIN  
Member of Congress

  
JACKIE SPEIER  
Member of Congress

  
FORTNEY PETE STARK  
Member of Congress

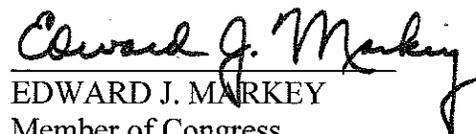
  
RAUL M. GRIJALVA  
Member of Congress

  
JAMES P. MORAN  
Member of Congress

  
BOB FILNER  
Member of Congress

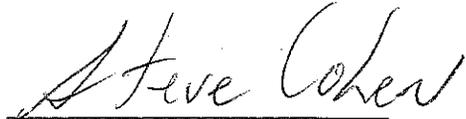
  
JOHN A. YARMUTH  
Member of Congress

  
JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.  
Member of Congress

  
EDWARD J. MARKEY  
Member of Congress



MICHAEL E. CAPUANO  
Member of Congress



STEVE COHEN  
Member of Congress



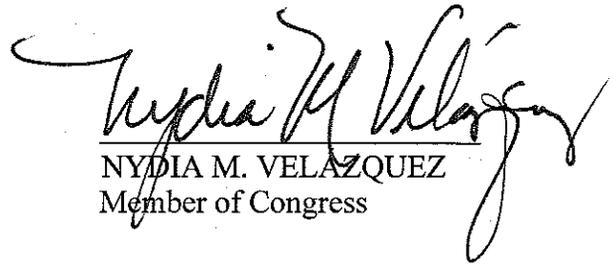
MARCIA L. FUDGE  
Member of Congress



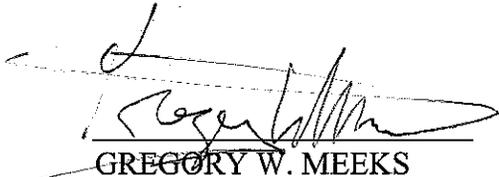
KEITH ELLISON  
Member of Congress



LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD  
Member of Congress



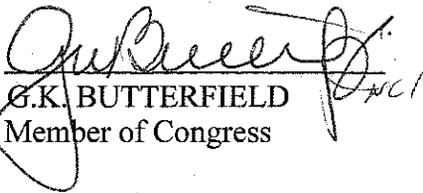
NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ  
Member of Congress



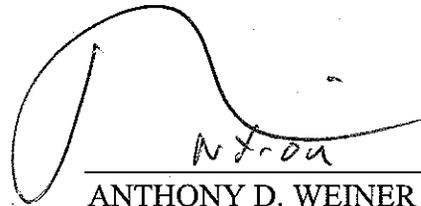
GREGORY W. MEEKS  
Member of Congress



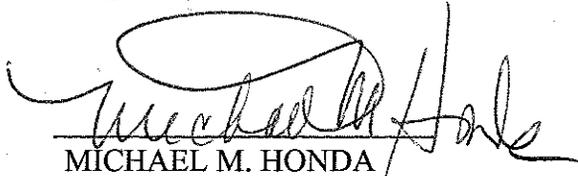
DAVID E. PRICE  
Member of Congress



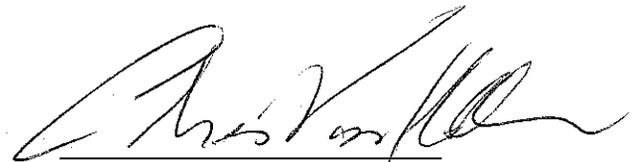
G.K. BUTTERFIELD  
Member of Congress



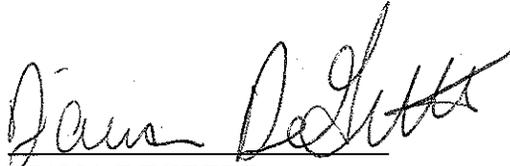
ANTHONY D. WEINER  
Member of Congress



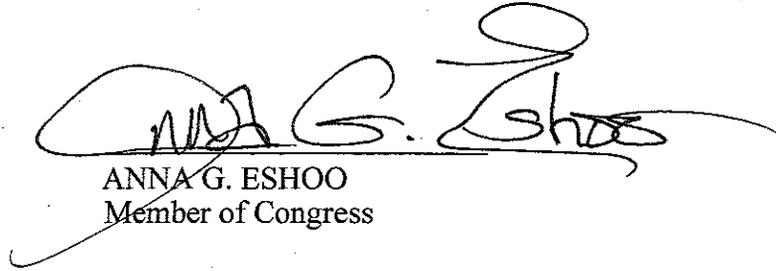
MICHAEL M. HONDA  
Member of Congress



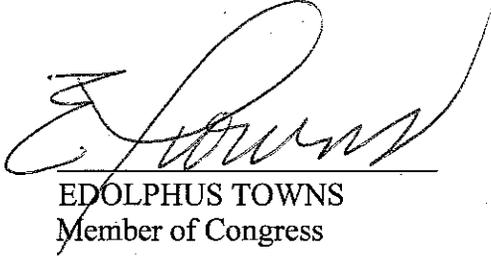
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN  
Member of Congress



DIANA DEGETTE  
Member of Congress



ANNA G. ESHOO  
Member of Congress



EDOLPHUS TOWNS  
Member of Congress



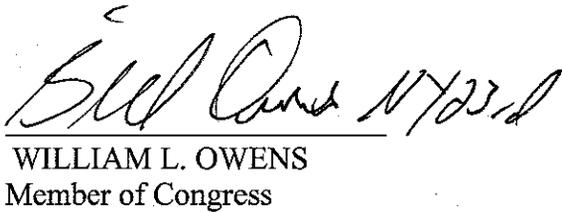
PAUL TONKO  
Member of Congress



CHELLIE PINGREE  
Member of Congress



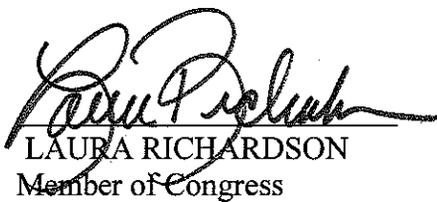
LOIS CAPPS  
Member of Congress



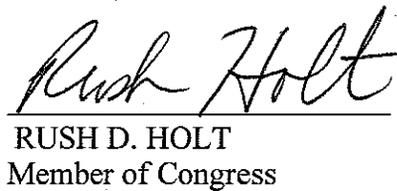
WILLIAM L. OWENS  
Member of Congress



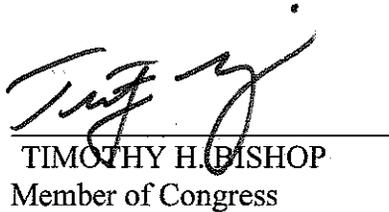
DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN  
Member of Congress



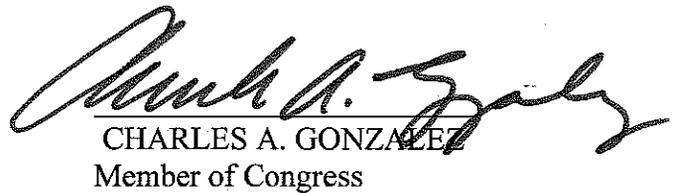
LAURA RICHARDSON  
Member of Congress



RUSH D. HOLT  
Member of Congress



TIMOTHY H. BISHOP  
Member of Congress

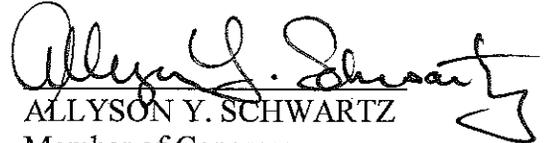


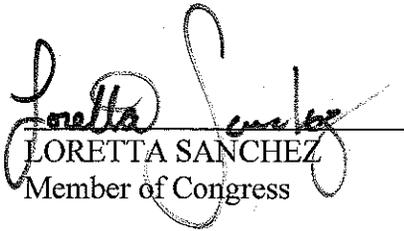
CHARLES A. GONZALEZ  
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BETTY MCCOLLUM  
Member of Congress

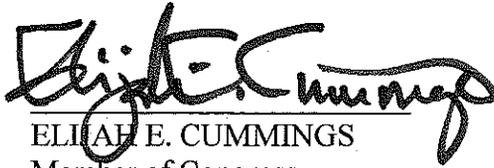
  
ROSA DELAURO  
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JIM MCDERMOTT  
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ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ  
Member of Congress

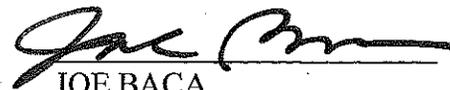
  
LORETTA SANCHEZ  
Member of Congress

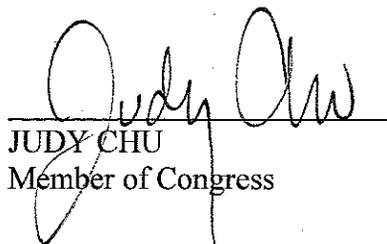
  
JOHN GARAMENDI  
Member of Congress

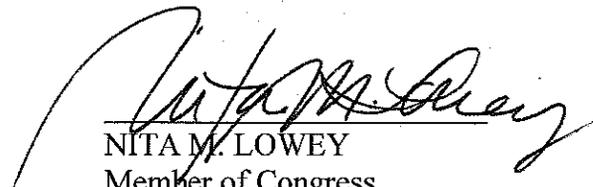
  
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YVETTE D. CLARKE  
Member of Congress

  
ELIOT L. ENGEL  
Member of Congress

  
JOE BACA  
Member of Congress

  
JUDY CHU  
Member of Congress

  
NITA M. LOWEY  
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CHARLES E. RANGEL  
Member of Congress



BRIAN HIGGINS  
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE  
Member of Congress