

September 15, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman, Senate HELP Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Senate HELP Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray,

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to an open, bipartisan process to stabilize and strengthen the individual health insurance market. On July 12, The New Democrat Coalition, along with other House Democrats, put forward a proposal to improve the Affordable Care Act. As you develop a targeted, short-term package to provide certainty and limit premium increases, we hope you will consider our enclosed proposal.

This set of proposals to stabilize the market and make health care more affordable for American families was designed to have bipartisan appeal and was the result of months of meetings with constituents, health policy experts, and health care providers. Specifically, we identify solutions in five areas:

- Guaranteed cost-sharing payments to reduce out-of-pocket costs
- Dedicated reinsurance funds to keep premium costs down
- Increased insurance coverage through outreach and enforcement
- Additional flexibility to create more affordable insurance options while protecting consumers
- Marketplace improvements and technical changes

Since releasing our proposal, bipartisan support has grown on the need to improve the ACA individual marketplaces. We believe these ideas provide a framework to reduce health care costs for families and seniors, increase choices for consumers, and encourage participation by the young and healthy.

As you well know, timing is critical and the window to provide necessary certainty for 2018 is closing. We know you share our goal finding solutions to reduce health care costs and look forward to working with you on a bill that paves the way to address long term health challenges.

Sincerely,

Ami Bera
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Jim Himes
Member of Congress

Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

Kathleen Rice
Member of Congress

Terri Sewell
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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Lisa Blunt Rochester
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Julia Brownley
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Cheri Bustos
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Salud O. Carbajal
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Gerald E. Connolly
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Jim Cooper
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Jim Costa
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Charlie Crist
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John K. Delaney
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Elizabeth Esty
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Bill Foster
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Bradley S. Schneider
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David Scott
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Darren Soto
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Norma Torres
Member of Congress