

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 22, 2009

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

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
House Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer:

As Congress nears consideration of health reform legislation we are writing to request that language be included in the final House health care reform bill to address the health care needs of the 15 million Americans employed in the nonprofit sector.

A successful health care reform effort must guarantee affordable and accessible care for *all* employees. Nonprofit organizations are a vital and significant part of the American economy. The nonprofit sector constitutes the fourth largest segment of the American workforce and generates approximately 12 percent of Gross National Product (GNP). Nonprofit employees are working in every Congressional District to serve our constituents, solve local problems and deliver government-funded services in diverse fields ranging from workforce development and violence prevention to health and human services.

Nearly all nonprofit organizations are struggling to provide health insurance coverage for their employees. These mainly small employers experience the same higher costs and limited options as their for-profit, small business counterparts. While small for-profit and non-profit organizations face similar challenges, none of the current House bills extend reforms and benefits to the nonprofit sector. As written, the tax credit provisions included by the House to address the needs of small, for-profit business would not be available to small nonprofit employers.

For health care reform to be truly comprehensive it must include nonprofit employers and their employees. The Senate Finance Committee and Senate Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions Committee have included language that covers both small nonprofit and for-profit employers. We would like to work with you and the Tri-Committee Chairmen to ensure that the House health reform bill provides comparable treatment for all small employers.

We strongly support health care reform and applaud your persistent efforts to advance this critical legislative priority. Thank you for your attention and consideration of this matter. We look forward to working with you to support nonprofit employers and their employees upon whom our constituents, communities and government depend.

Sincerely,



BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress



JIM MCDERMOTT
Member of Congress



RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress



DONNA F. EDWARDS
Member of Congress



DAVID LOEBSACK
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



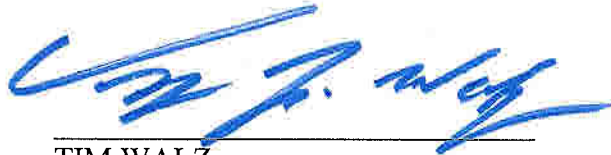
KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress



PAUL HODES
Member of Congress



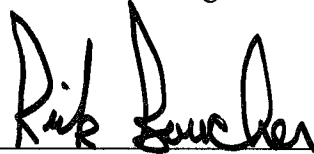
RAUL GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



TIM WALZ
Member of Congress



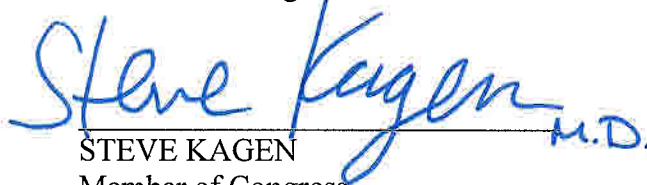
MICHAEL MICHAUD
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RICK BOUCHER
Member of Congress



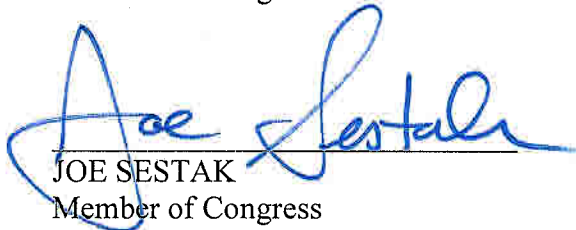
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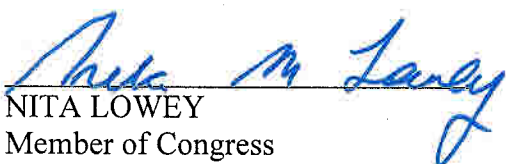
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Cc:
Chairman Rangel
Chairman Waxman
Chairman Miller
Chairwoman Slaughter