

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 14, 2010

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

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Reid, and Majority Leader Hoyer:

We write today to express our strong support for the Medicare Part D prescription-drug benefit language included in the House-passed health care reform legislation. Fully eliminating the Medicare Part D donut hole is of critical importance and we respectfully urge that the House language be retained in the final legislation.

The House language makes an important commitment to our seniors by fully eliminating the donut hole. Senior citizens, many of whom are living on fixed-incomes, often face financial hardship due to unreasonably high medical costs -- a hardship that is exacerbated by the donut hole. Closing this coverage gap will mean significant and much-needed relief for the millions of Americans who rely on Medicare Part D.

While we applaud the Senate's efforts to shrink the donut hole in 2010, it would not be completely eliminated. The House language provides for similar immediate relief, but continues to make additional progress in the following years until the coverage gap is fully closed in 2019. Efforts to partially alleviate the financial burden caused by the gap are important, but they must be accompanied by a long-term approach that provides for the complete elimination of the donut hole. The House-passed language achieves precisely that.

Given the significant financial impact on our seniors and the widespread support for the complete elimination of the donut hole, we respectfully urge the retention of the House language in the final health care reform bill.

Sincerely,

Carol Shea-Porter

Joe Courtney

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Jim Sargent

Paul D. Tonko

Pauli Walker

Tim F. Z.
 Phil Nee

Phil Nee

J. L. P. Sch

C

Joe Lestak

John W. Olver

~~Eric J. ...~~

Bill Foster

Hy L. Dayton

Ron Klein

Dona F. Edwards

Full In

John P. Conroy

Mike Dole

John Lewis

Yvette D. Clarke

Frank Johnson

Bassett

Rush Holt

Mary Jo Kilroy

John Hall
D. Acder

Rail M. Gijalva
Dail Lipuli

Laura Richardson

Oak E. Ciesau

Corine Brown

Carlyn B. Malry

Marian Dudy

C. A. Dutch Rupperberger

Genevieve M. Orr

Stan N. N. Orr

Dave Loebach

Harold L. Powell

John A. Bower

Betty Sutton

Edward Holman

Howard S. Berman

Justel Madler

Bob Filner

Dennis J. Kucinski

Judy Orr

Jin Ouster

Daniel P.

Marcy Kaptur

Michael W. Michaud

Mike Dwyer

Aerald E. Romo

Niki Burgos

Sandra

Cosigners:

- 1 The Honorable Carol Shea-Porter
- 2 The Honorable Joe Courtney
- 3 The Honorable Laura Richardson
- 4 The Honorable Niki Tsongas
- 5 The Honorable John Olver
- 6 The Honorable Hank Johnson
- 7 The Honorable Leonard Boswell
- 8 The Honorable James Oberstar
- 9 The Honorable Betty Sutton
- 10 The Honorable John Lewis
- 11 The Honorable Mike Quigley
- 12 The Honorable Chellie Pingree
- 13 The Honorable John Hall
- 14 The Honorable Steven Rothman
- 15 The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
- 16 The Honorable Maurice Hinchey
- 17 The Honorable Paul Hodes
- 18 The Honorable Yvette Clarke
- 19 The Honorable Charlie Wilson
- 20 The Honorable Bob Filner
- 21 The Honorable Raul Grijalva
- 22 The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
- 23 The Honorable Christopher Carney
- 24 The Honorable Paul Tonko
- 25 The Honorable Rush Holt
- 26 The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
- 27 The Honorable Bill Foster
- 28 The Honorable Tim Bishop
- 29 The Honorable Jesse Jackson
- 30 The Honorable David Price
- 31 The Honorable Daniel Lipinski
- 32 The Honorable Phil Hare
- 33 The Honorable Bobby Scott
- 34 The Honorable Mary Jo Kilroy
- 35 The Honorable James Langevin
- 36 The Honorable Joe Sestak
- 37 The Honorable John Sarbanes
- 38 The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
- 39 The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
- 40 The Honorable Judy Chu
- 41 The Honorable Ron Klein
- 42 The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
- 43 The Honorable Corrine Brown
- 44 The Honorable Dutch Ruppersberger
- 45 The Honorable Dale Kildee
- 46 The Honorable Donna Edwards
- 47 The Honorable Steve Driehaus
- 48 The Honorable Eric Massa
- 49 The Honorable John Boccieri
- 50 The Honorable Mike Doyle
- 51 The Honorable Gerald Connolly
- 52 The Honorable Howard Berman
- 53 The Honorable Michael Michaud
- 54 The Honorable Dave Loebsack
- 55 The Honorable Dennis Kucinich
- 56 The Honorable Sander Levin