

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

October 3, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Walden:

We are writing to urge you to immediately hold hearings to consider measures to stabilize the insurance markets. With only a month to go before the open enrollment season, our window of opportunity to stabilize markets and bring down premiums for millions of Americans is quickly closing.

It is imperative that we work expeditiously to pass market stabilization measures and end the widespread uncertainty among insurers regarding the future of the Marketplaces due to the Trump Administration's continual threats to unilaterally end the payment of cost sharing reductions (CSRs). Failure to provide this certainty is resulting in significantly higher costs and fewer choices for consumers.¹ These premium increases also have significant federal spending implications—according to one estimate, as a result of rising premiums, the federal government would end up spending \$31 billion more from 2018-2027.²

We believe a hearing on market stabilization would also provide an opportunity to consider other important policy levers to stabilize and improve health insurance markets, including ideas to encourage greater choice and competition in the individual market, and encourage enrollment by younger people in the Marketplaces to improve the risk pool. We stand ready to work with you on bipartisan ideas to achieve these shared goals.

In September, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee and Senate Finance Committee began the work of holding bipartisan hearings on solutions to the

¹ Kaiser Family Foundation, *An Early Look at 2018 Premium Changes and Insurer Participation on ACA Exchanges* (Aug. 10, 2017).

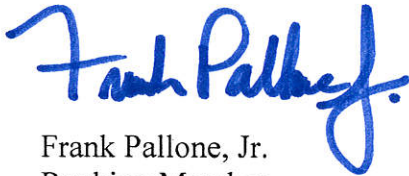
² Kaiser Family Foundation, *The Effects of Ending the Affordable Care Act's Cost-Sharing Reduction Payments* (Apr. 25, 2017).

challenges facing our health care system today, and including specifically the individual insurance market. As a result, members of those Committees were afforded the critical opportunity to receive testimony from a variety of stakeholders, pose questions, and evaluate policy in a public forum. Members of the Energy and Commerce Committee should have the same opportunity.

Our Committee holds broad jurisdiction over the health care sector and as such has a leading role to play in ensuring that bipartisan agreement is reached on health care legislation that meets the needs of the American people. We stand ready to work through regular order to develop policy and build consensus.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member



Bobby L. Rush
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Gene Green
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health



Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations



Mike Doyle
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications
and Technology



Jan Schakowsky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Digital Commerce
and Consumer Protection



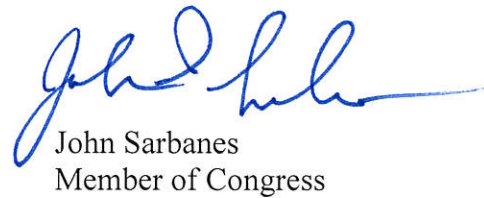
G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



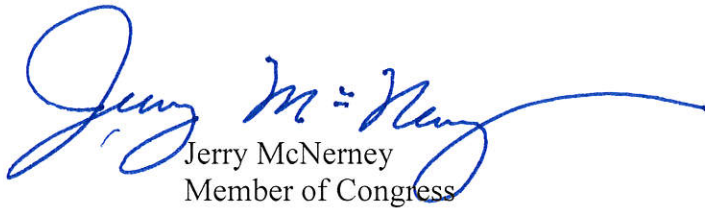
Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Vice Ranking Member



John Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



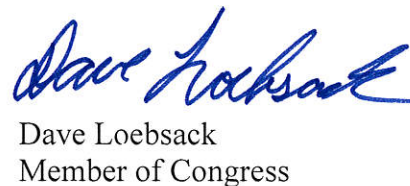
Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress



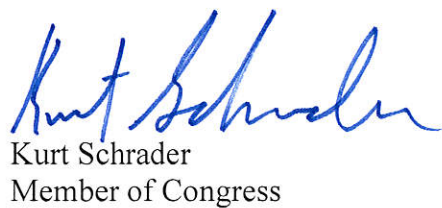
Paul D. Tonko
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress




Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

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Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress