



The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the American Medical Student Association, the oldest and largest independent organization of physicians-in-training in the United States with over 62,000 members, we thank you for your dedication to developing health care reform legislation that expands and improves health care for all.

We greatly applaud the inclusion of the following provisions in the *Affordable Health Care for America Act*, HR 3962:

- A **public health insurance option** available on day one
- The **Public Health Investment Fund**, providing security for rich investments in public health and primary care initiatives such as the National Health Service Corps and other Title VII and VIII programs
- Pharmaceutical conflict of interest disclosure policies in the **Physician Payments Sunshine** provision
- Medicare funding for **Teaching Health Centers** to expand community-based training programs and develop a physician workforce aligned with our nation's current and future health needs
- **Allowing insurers to continue providing abortion coverage** as a necessary part of comprehensive healthcare insurance for women regardless of their status with federal subsidy monies

However, we also urge you strengthen HR 3962 to truly provide affordable and accessible health care for all Americans, and as such, advocate for the inclusion of the following improvements:

- Expand the Exchange such that the **public health insurance option be available to all individuals and employers on day one**, regardless of current insurance status or size of employer
- **Reduce the 12-years data exclusivity given to brand-name biologics to a maximum of 5 years and eliminate evergreening loopholes** that allow companies to re-obtain data exclusivity with minor tweaks; current provisions de-incentivize meaningful innovation and effectively block introduction of generic biologic drugs in many cases

Again, we thank you for your work on health care reform that truly creates affordable and accessible health care options for our patients, strengthens healthcare delivery and physician workforce, and promotes health equality. We strongly encourage you and the House Membership to support the aforementioned improvements to HR 3962 while continuing to champion those provisions currently within the bill that we agree are vital to reform.

In health,

Lauren Hughes, MD, MPH
National President

Farheen A. Qurashi, MD-Candidate
Jack Rutledge Legislative Director