

November 5, 2009

The Honorable Charles Rangel  
Chair, Ways and Means  
United States House of Representatives  
H-2354, US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rangel:

We applaud your leadership in creating a national health reform package. The *Affordable Health Care for America Act* (H.R. 3962) not only assures access to quality, stable, affordable health care, but promotes competition, slows the growth in health care costs, and improves the quality of care.

We are strongly supportive of H.R. 3962. We recognize that there are significant changes from earlier proposals. For instance, the increase of Medicaid coverage to 150 percent of the poverty line, compared to 133 percent in earlier versions; addition of a long-term care insurance program for adults with disabilities; requiring health plans to allow young people through age 26 to remain on their parents' policy; and eliminating the Medicare donut hole by 2019, rather than 2024. All of these provisions will be important to achieving our goal of guaranteed, affordable health care.

We would like to especially thank you for your continued support for a public insurance option, vigorous oversight of the private insurance industry, strong affordability protections, and employer responsibility for contributing to health care costs.

As we look ahead to the debate on the floor, we support the *Affordable Health Care for America Act* and the efforts that have gone into creating this landmark legislation. We thank you and the entire House Leadership for your dedication in moving the nation toward quality, affordable health care for all.

Sincerely,

Community Catalyst  
AIDS Action Council  
Family Voices  
Medicare Rights Center  
National Research Center for Women & Families  
U.S. PIRG

**Alabama**

Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice, Inc.  
Alabama ARISE

**California**

Health Access California  
Family Voices of California

**Colorado**

Arapahope Community Team  
AdvocacyDenver  
Colorado AIDS Project  
Colorado Citizens for Accountability  
Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved  
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative  
Colorado Ovarian Cancer Alliance

**Connecticut**

Connecticut Voices for Children

**Kentucky**

Advocacy Action Network of Kentucky  
Kentucky Equal Justice Center  
Kentucky Mental Health Coalition

**Iowa**

Child and Family Policy Center  
Iowa Farmers Union

**Illinois**

Campaign for Better Health Care

**Florida**

Florida CHAIN

**Louisiana**

Louisiana Consumer Health Coalition  
New Orleans Medical Association

**Massachusetts**

Boston Public Health Commission  
Ecu-Health Care  
Health Care for All  
Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
New England Serve  
Teamsters Union 25 Health Services & Insurance Plan

**Maine**

Consumers for Affordable Health Care Coalition  
Maine Equal Justice Partners  
Maine Center for Economic Policy  
National Association of Social Workers, Maine Chapter

**Maryland**

Lutheran Office on Public Policy  
Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative

**Minnesota**

TakeAction Minnesota

**Mississippi**

Mississippi Center for Justice

Mississippi Health Advocacy Program

**Nebraska**

Center for People in Need

Center for Rural Affairs

Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest

Nebraska Association of Public Employees/AFSCME

**New Hampshire**

New Hampshire Voices for Health

**New Jersey**

New Jersey Citizen Action

**New Mexico**

Health Action New Mexico

**New York**

AFSCME, District Council 37 Health & Security Plan

Central New York Citizens In Action, Inc.

Citizen Action of New York

Community Service Society of NY

Metro New York Health Care for All Campaign

Progressive Research and Action Center, Inc

**Nevada**

Nevada Covering Kids and Families

**North Carolina**

North Carolina Justice Center

**Ohio**

Cerebral Palsy Association of Ohio

UHCAN Ohio

**Pennsylvania**

Consumer Health Coalition

Pennsylvania Health Law Project

PHI-Health Care for Health Care Workers

Philadelphia Unemployment Project

**Rhode Island**

Ocean State Action

RI Family to Family Health Information Center

**South Carolina**

South Carolina Appleseed  
South Carolina Fair Share  
South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce

**Tennessee**

Tennessee Health Care Campaign

**Texas**

Center for Public Policy Priorities

**Utah**

Utah Health Policy Project

**Vermont**

Vermont Family Network/ Family Voices of Vermont  
Voices for Vermont's Children

**Virginia**

The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis  
Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy  
Virginia Organizing Project

**Washington**

Washington CAN!

**West Virginia**

West Virginians for Affordable Health Care

**Wisconsin**

Citizen Action of Wisconsin  
Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups