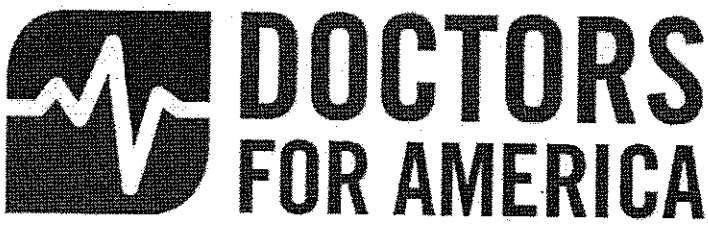


www.drsforamerica.org

November 3, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of Doctors for America and its 15,000 physician and medical student members across all 50 states who are committed to building a better health care system for our patients, we wish to express our support for the *Affordable Health Care for America Act* (HR 3962). This landmark piece of legislation provides increased access to affordable health coverage, implements market reforms to protect our patients, invests in the primary care physician workforce and public health system, and begins to reform the payment and delivery systems so doctors can focus on providing high quality care for our patients.

Doctors for America strongly supports the provisions in HR 3962 to:

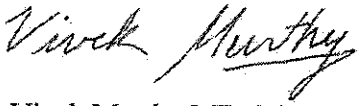
- Provide health insurance coverage for 96 percent of Americans while reducing the federal deficit by $30 billion.
- Provide substantial subsidies to help make coverage more affordable for our patients.
- Implement insurance market reforms to prevent individuals from being denied coverage because of pre-existing conditions, and to limit premium differentials based on age, gender and other factors.
- Establish a public health insurance option to ensure there is adequate competition and affordable health insurance options in all areas of the country.
- Provide a 5% bonus payment for primary care services – with an additional 5% increase for those practicing in underserved areas.
- Increase Medicaid payment for primary care services to at least Medicare payment rates.
- Expand the National Health Services Corp and Title VII health professions training programs.
- Expand the medical home pilots and other health care delivery improvement models.
- Create the Innovation Center to focus on improving the health care delivery system
- Invest billions to strengthen our public health system and focus on prevention and wellness
- Establish a new program to encourage states to implement alternatives to traditional medical malpractice litigation.
- Invest in independent research on the comparative effectiveness of different treatments to assist clinical decision-making.

Doctors for America Center for American Progress 1333 H Street, NW 11th Floor Washington, DC 20005

As doctors and medical students, we see the urgent need to fix our broken health care system first hand everyday which is why a majority of physicians support health reform this year. We are fighting to ensure that all Americans receive access to high quality care - the kind of care that we, as physicians, want for our patients. HR 3962 represents a historic step toward improving the health care system for us and our patients.

Thank you again for your strong leadership. We look forward to working with you and members of Congress to take advantage of this important opportunity to enact meaningful health care reform this year.

Sincerely,



Vivek Murthy MD, MBA
President,
Doctors for America