



Washington Community Action Network  
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November 3, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the Washington Community Action Network, I write to commend and thank you and your colleagues for introducing H.R. 3962, the "Affordable Health Care for America Act of 2009". Washington CAN! is a statewide membership organization that represents 35,000 individuals and lead progressive organizations from labor, faith, and community institutions in Washington State.

Washington CAN! has been dedicated to achieving quality, affordable health care for all for more than a decade. This bill is an excellent example of what can be accomplished when Members of Congress work together to do what is best for the people they represent. It provides more affordable, quality coverage for all, calls for shared responsibility by individuals, employers and government, and expands health insurance coverage choices, including being able to retain one's current coverage, have additional private plan options, and a public health insurance option designed to lower costs and keep insurance companies honest.

Washington CAN! strongly supports the provisions in the bill that make health insurance and health care services more affordable. In particular, premium assistance, reduced cost-sharing, and application of an out-of-pocket cap are central to making health care accessible to low and middle income individuals and families. For millions of Americans today, affordable coverage is secured through the workplace. We are strongly in support of the provisions that retain and strengthen the provision of employer-sponsored insurance and that extend this responsibility across a broader spectrum of employers. Also, we commend you for your leadership in extending assistance in purchasing health insurance to working families through the exchange, including the option of choosing a public health insurance option that would be available nationally on Day One. Finally, the progressive financing provisions in the bill are central to ensuring that middle income families do not take on an even greater burden for securing comprehensive health insurance coverage for their families. Together, these provisions are vital to ensuring that persons in all corners of our country are able to afford health insurance and to readily access health care services.

Washington CAN! is proud to extend its strong support for this legislation, and we look forward to working with you and other leaders in Congress and the Administration to see comprehensive health care reform enacted into law this year. This is an historic opportunity to address the nation's health care crisis, and the "Affordable Health Care for America Act of 2009" is an important step toward quality, affordable health care for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Pittz", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Will Pittz  
Executive Director

