

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 13, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Hatch, and Ranking Member Wyden,

On behalf of the forty-three member bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus, we are writing you today to offer our full-fledged support for the renewed effort to pass and sign into law bipartisan measures to stabilize the individual health insurance market and provide relief to small businesses. We applaud you for leading the way in the U.S. Senate and returning to regular order, including the execution of hearings last week with critical stakeholders in the Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions.

As you may know, on July 31, the Problem Solvers Caucus reached an agreement on a bipartisan set of solutions to stabilize health insurance markets and provide relief to individuals, families and small businesses across America. Our Caucus agreed on exploring realistic solutions, including:

- Ensuring cost-sharing reduction (CSR) payments are funded and Congress provides necessary oversight;
- Creating a dedicated stability fund that states can use to reduce premiums and limit losses for providing coverage – especially those with pre-existing conditions;
- A commitment to offset these investments and be fiscally responsible;
- Adjusting the employer mandate by raising the threshold on the requirement for employers to provide insurance under the employer mandate to businesses of 500 employees or more and defining the “full time” work week as 40 hours or more a week;
- Repealing the medical device tax; and
- Providing technical changes and clear guidelines for states that want to innovate on the exchange (Section 1332 waivers) or enter into regional compacts (Section 1333 waivers) to improve coverage and create more options for consumers.

As you can see, our proposal contains some elements that Democratic members advocated for and some Republicans desired. The compromise solution was accepted by our Caucus due to our desire to find common ground to solve problems. As you move forward, we urge you to ensure bipartisan proposal is equally balanced.

As a bipartisan Caucus, we used the August work period to meet with our constituents and critical stakeholders, including governors and state insurance commissioners from across the country, and the overwhelming message is clear: Congress must act now.

All forty-three members of our bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus urge you to continue to push for a solution that can take effect for insurance plans offered in 2018. While we realize that our window for completing this is short, we offer to you in earnest our steadfast support and assistance for bipartisan solutions that improve patient choice and responsibility, create positive incentives for providers to lower

costs, and enhance state flexibility. We stand ready to help find a path that can restructure and stabilize the individual market.

Sincerely,



Rep. Kurt Schrader (OR-5)
Health Care Working Group Co-Chair
Problem Solvers Caucus



Rep. Martha McSally (AZ-2)
Health Care Working Group Co-Chair
Problem Solvers Caucus



Rep. Josh Gottheimer (NJ-5)
Problem Solvers Caucus Co-Chair



Rep. Tom Reed (NY-23)
Problem Solvers Caucus Co-Chair



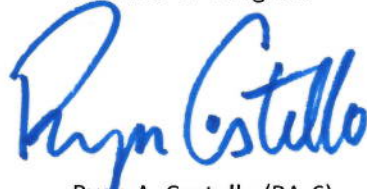
Ami Bera (CA-7)
Member of Congress



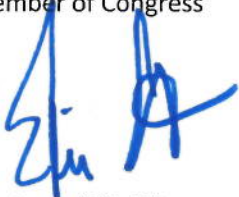
Mike Coffman (CO-6)
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal (CA-24)
Member of Congress



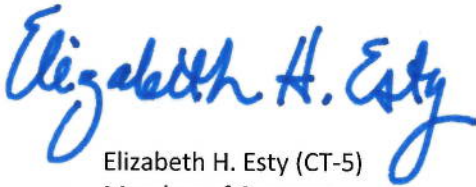
Ryan A. Costello (PA-6)
Member of Congress



Jim Costa (CA-16)
Member of Congress



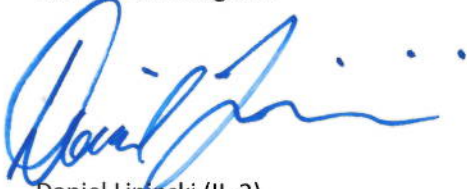
Carlos Curbelo (FL-26)
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty (CT-5)
Member of Congress



John J. Faso (NY-19)
Member of Congress



Daniel Lipinski (IL-3)
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick (PA-8)
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy (FL-7)
Member of Congress



John Katko (NY-24)
Member of Congress



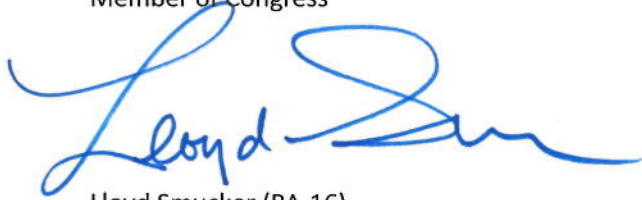
Richard R. Nolan (MN-8)
Member of Congress



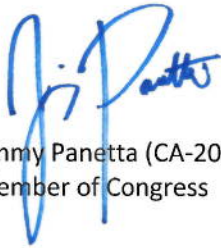
Leonard Lance (NJ-7)
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran (AZ-1)
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker (PA-16)
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta (CA-20)
Member of Congress



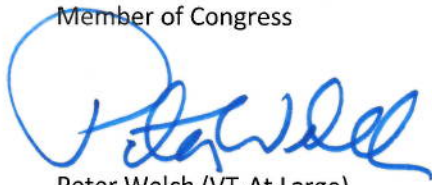
Bradley S. Schneider (IL-10)
Member of Congress



Darren Soto (FL-9)
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi (NY-3)
Member of Congress



Peter Welch (VT-At Large)
Member of Congress