

Senate Letter

As you consider comprehensive health care reform for America, I urge you to proceed carefully and focus on getting any reform legislation “right” rather than be bound by arbitrary deadlines.

I do agree that our current health care system is in need of reform and appreciate the efforts of Congress to control rising health care costs and provide coverage options for all Americans. However, sustainable and workable health reform is a significant and complex endeavor, and will impact the economy as a whole and the lives of every American. Therefore, I implore you and your colleagues to take your time in drafting comprehensive health care legislation and be sure to thoroughly discuss this crucial issue with your constituents.

Health care reform is needed throughout this country, but it is a heavy challenge for America to tackle and we must do it right. The future of the nation’s health care system deserves nothing less than an open, bipartisan and transparent debate by Congress. This is particularly important given that, this week, Congressional Budget Office Director Douglas Elmendorf said that plans being considered in the House approved by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions would drive the nation further into debt—not create the savings repeatedly promised by President Barack Obama.

It is important that we focus on finding common ground to create a comprehensive health care reform that will truly work for Americans by lowering costs and providing access.

While I see the urgency behind bringing health care reform to American families as quickly as possible, we must remember that if health care reform is not considered carefully, we could be creating massive unfunded tax burdens on our economy and future generations.

I applaud you all for your efforts to truly make health care accessible for all Americans and support you in this goal. But I ask you to take the time to craft bipartisan comprehensive health care reform that will work for America.