

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 21, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

While there are many points of disagreement on the pending health care bill, one area where hopefully there can be bipartisan agreement is that the federal government should not penalize people simply for being married.

Recent press reports have highlighted that the new subsidy structures in both the House- and Senate-passed bills contain significant marriage penalties. For example, in the House-passed bill, an unmarried couple with income of \$25,000 each would have their combined premiums capped at \$3,076 per year. If the couple gets married, and thus has a combined annual income of \$50,000, their annual premium cap jumps to \$5,160 for the same insurance. In short, there is a \$2,084 penalty for simply being married. While under the Senate-passed bill it would be less, the marriage penalty would still exceed \$1,500 a year.

Republicans and Democrats have worked together in the past to reduce the marriage penalty that exists in the tax code for all couples and to eliminate it for those making \$68,000 or less. After eliminating the most significant marriage penalty for these families, Congress should not now impose a brand new one.

Simply put, government policy should not be constructed in such a way that either discourages individuals from marrying or provides an incentive for couples to divorce. The imposition of a marriage penalty on middle class families has no place as part of any health care bill.

Sincerely,


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Member of Congress


Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Greg Witts PA-16
Member of Congress

Proxmire IL 06
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

B. H. Carder LA 06
Member of Congress

Adam Smith IL-18
Member of Congress

Kim McCreary CA-22
Member of Congress

Jim Cooper GA 3
Member of Congress

Eric Cantor VA-7
Member of Congress

Ch. Sten
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Cathy McMoran-Rodden WA-05
Member of Congress

Patrick J. Toomey
Member of Congress

Sam Johnson TX-3
Member of Congress

Frank Lucas OK-3
Member of Congress

John Boogman
Member of Congress

K. Michael Conaway TX-11
Member of Congress

Wm. Hunter CA-52

Bob Latta, FL-09

Steve Seaton, LA-1
Member of Congress

Lee Royick NC09
Member of Congress

Pete Olson TX-22
Member of Congress

Marsha Blackburn TN07
Member of Congress

Lynn Jenkins KS02
Member of Congress

Tom Wilson, SC-02
Member of Congress

Conaway TX-11
Member of Congress

Sam Cole OK-4
Member of Congress

Robert E. J. OH-5
Member of Congress

Anthony NC-02
Member of Congress

Chamberlain NE-26
Member of Congress

Bill Shuster PA-9
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Andrew P. OH-10
Member of Congress

Cardinal Miller MI-10
Member of Congress

Blumenthal CT-1
Member of Congress

Michael W. Louder TX-10
Member of Congress

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Chloe L. Swartz PA-15

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ANN AM
Member of Congress TX-2

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Jean Schmidt OH 2
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn CO-5
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Key George TX 12
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Mary Fallin OK-5
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Earl Parn MN-3
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Chil Pangy GA-11
Member of Congress

John Kline MN-2
Member of Congress

Blaine Luetjens MO-09
Member of Congress

Kent Starks
Member of Congress

Israel Chastoli UT-3
Member of Congress

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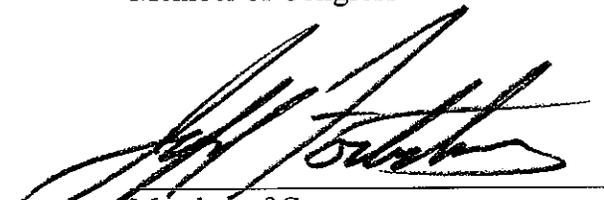

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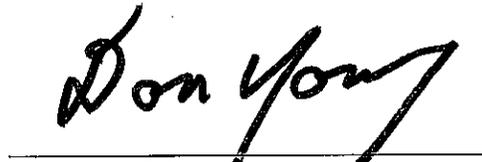

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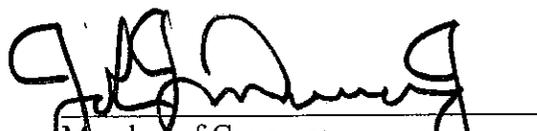

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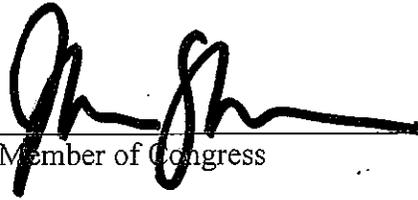
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