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January 19, 2010

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

Dear Madam Speaker:

Throughout the ongoing health care debate, House Republicans have offered a host of proposals to lower the cost of health care for all Americans, rein in junk lawsuits, and protect Medicare, all without raising taxes in the midst of a recession. Unfortunately the Democratic majority has repeatedly used its power to reject these commonsense solutions and shut Republicans and the American people out of the process.

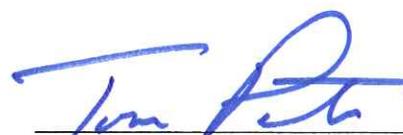
Fortunately, it is not too late for Congress to make a major course correction in the health care debate and enact reforms the American people actually support.

One of the first steps Congress must take to correct its course and regain the trust of the American people is to end the process of concealing health care reform efforts behind closed doors. Covert negotiations that led to special interest "sweetheart deals" in the Senate version of the health care bill severely eroded the American people's confidence in Congress. President Obama promised the American people open, accountable, and transparent government. He promised health care reform would be negotiated in the public eye and broadcast for all to see on C-SPAN. It is time for you to deliver on the President's promise.

As members of the Education and Labor Committee, one of the primary committees of jurisdiction over health care in the House of Representatives, we are keenly aware of the significant impact this legislation will have on all Americans. As such, we call on you to end your closed door negotiations with Senator Harry Reid and immediately appoint bipartisan conferees to meet publically and negotiate health care reform proposals in good faith and under regular order. It is not too late for a commonsense course correction on health care reform. The American people expect and deserve no less.

Sincerely,

  
John Kline  
Senior Republican Member

  
Thomas E. Petri  
Member of Congress



Howard P. "Buck" McKeon  
Member of Congress



Peter Hoekstra  
Member of Congress



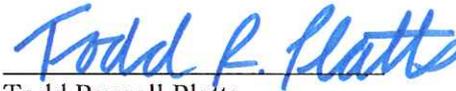
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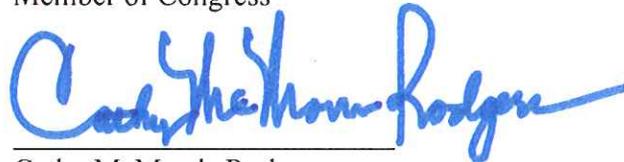
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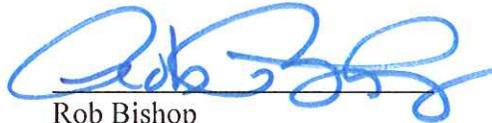
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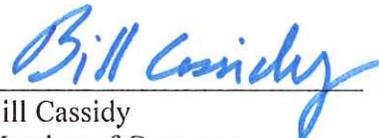
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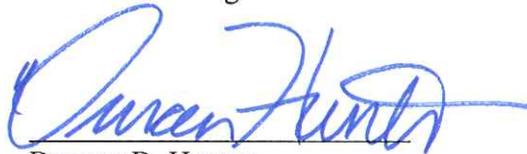
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