

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2009

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

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
House Committee on Education and Labor
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker, Chairman Waxman, Chairman Rangel, and Chairman Miller:

We write to voice our opposition to the negotiated health care reform agreement under consideration in the Energy and Commerce Committee.

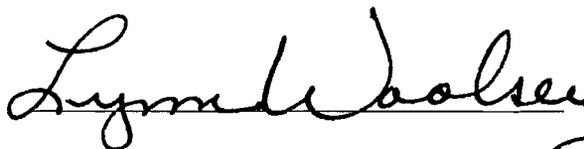
We regard the agreement reached by Chairman Waxman and several Blue Dog members of the Committee as fundamentally unacceptable. This agreement is not a step forward toward a good health care bill, but a large step backwards. Any bill that does not provide, at a minimum, for a public option with reimbursement rates based on Medicare rates – not negotiated rates – is unacceptable. It would ensure higher costs for the public plan, and would do nothing to achieve the goal of “keeping insurance companies honest,” and their rates down.

To offset the increased costs incurred by adopting the provisions advocated by the Blue Dog members of the Committee, the agreement would reduce subsidies to low- and middle-income families, requiring them to pay a larger portion of their income for insurance premiums, and would impose an unfunded mandate on the states to pay for what were to have been Federal costs.

In short, this agreement will result in the public, both as insurance purchasers and as taxpayers, paying ever higher rates to insurance companies.

We simply cannot vote for such a proposal.

Sincerely,

Minnie Waters

Judy Ann

Wanda Lindsey

Hank Johnson

Alaine E. Watson

Julie Speer

Shirley Jack Lee

Ely Cummings

Donna Lee

Emery Moore

Donald Payne

Pete Stark

Tommy

Corrie Brown

Chad

Glenn Hastings

Jim McLean

Phil Wae

Hay & Doynt

Tom

Alan

Yvette D. Clarke

Jim McBeath

Donna F. Edwards

Alvin J. ...
Franklin D. Roosevelt

John F. ...
Carolyn C. Lipscomb

Earl B. ...
Dorothy L. Watt

Robert F. ...
Jerrold Nadler

Luella Kayser-Allard

Margaret Kaptur

Sam Farr

Michael Mtonda

Laura Richardson

Marcia L. Judge

Mazie K. Heron

Michael E. Caputo

Finda J. Sánchez

John W. Oliver

Keith Elin

Eric J. Joss

Bill Russell

Banham Lee

Bob Fisher

Quellbert Smith

Wm. Lacy Clay

Dennis J. Kuciel

John Longenecker

Bill Mahant

Lynn Woolsey
Raul Grijalva
Carolyn Kilpatrick
Jerry Nadler
Phil Hare
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Keith Ellison
Earl Blumenauer
Mel Watts
Donna Edwards
John Olver
Dennis Kucinich
Laura Richardson
Maxine Waters
John Conyers
Judy Chu
Maurice Hinchey
Hank Johnson
Diane Watson
Jackie Spier
Bill Pascrell
Lloyd Doggett
Marcy Kaptur
Mazie Hirono
Bob Filner
Linda Sanchez
Marcia Fudge
Barbara Lee
Andre Carson
Sheila Jackson Lee
Michael Honda
Jim McDermott
William Lacy Clay
Jim McGovern
Yvette Clarke
Eric Massa
Chellie Pingree
Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Elijah Cummings
Bennie Thompson

Gwen Moore
Donald Payne
Fortney "Pete" Stark
Ed Towns
Corrine Brown
Alcee Hastings
Nydia Valezquez
Luis Gutierrez
Grace Napolitano
Albio Sires
John Tierney
Mike Capuano
Chaka Fattah
Jose Serrano
Sam Farr
Bill Delahunt
Eddie Bernice Johnson