

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 23, 2010

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John A. Boehner
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator McConnell and Representative Boehner:

We were surprised to read in last Tuesday's article "GOP frosh: Where's my health care?" in *Politico* that some of your incoming members are unhappy with the health benefits they are eligible to purchase under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) – particularly the fact that there is a delay before benefits take effect. Ironically, this is the same predicament millions of Americans currently find themselves in.

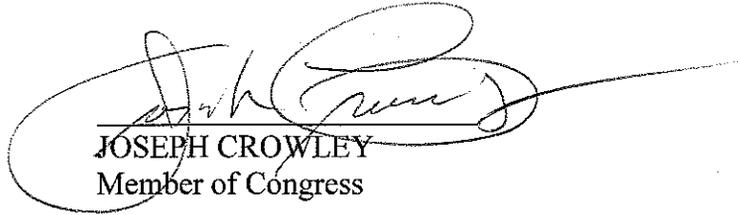
It is amazing that your members would complain about not having health care coverage for a few weeks, even after campaigning to repeal the *Affordable Care Act*, which will help provide coverage to millions of Americans who find themselves without health insurance for months or even years.

We also find it interesting that members of the Republican conference would have no problem taking away health coverage from hard-working Americans, but expect expanded coverage for themselves and their families. The system set up by the *Affordable Care Act* will allow Americans to choose the plan that works best for them from a variety of private insurance plans, just like the FEHB program that members of Congress are now able to access. The uninsured, small-business employees, and the self-employed will now be able to benefit from this same choice and competition.

It begs the question: how many members of the Republican conference will forgo the employer-subsidized FEHBP coverage and experience what so many Americans find themselves forced to face? If your conference wants to deny millions of Americans affordable health care, your members should walk that walk. You cannot enroll in the very kind of coverage that you want for yourselves, and then turn around and deny it to Americans who don't happen to be Members of Congress. We also want to note that in 2011, the Federal government will pay \$10,503.48 of the premiums for each member of Congress with a family policy under the commonly-selected Blue Cross standard plan.

It is important for the American people to know whether the members of Congress and members-elect who have called for the repeal of health insurance reform are going to stand by their opposition by opting out of the care available to them at the expense of hard-working taxpayers. We look forward to your response in the coming days about exactly how many of the members in the Republican conference will be declining their taxpayer-supported health benefits.

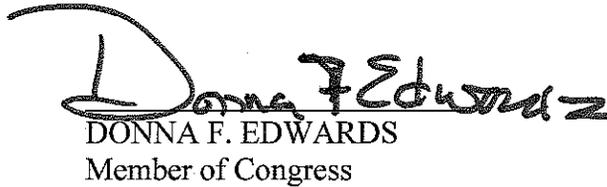
Sincerely,



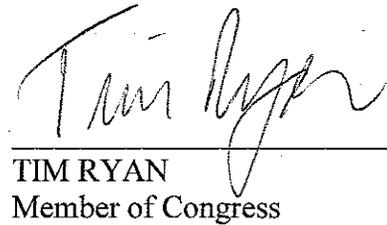
JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress



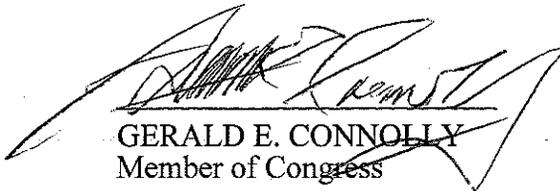
LINDA T. SANCHEZ
Member of Congress



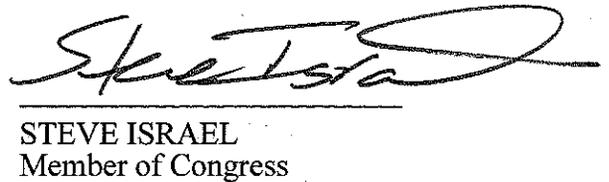
DONNA F. EDWARDS
Member of Congress



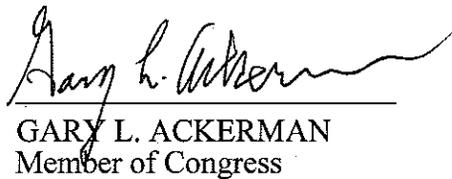
TIM RYAN
Member of Congress



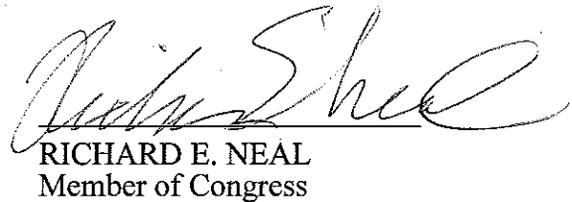
GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress



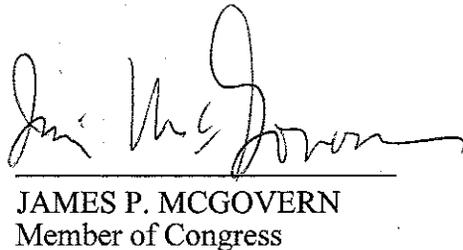
STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress



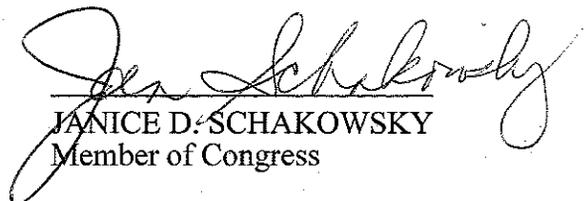
GARY L. ACKERMAN
Member of Congress



RICHARD E. NEAL
Member of Congress

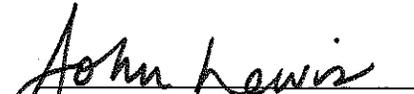


JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress

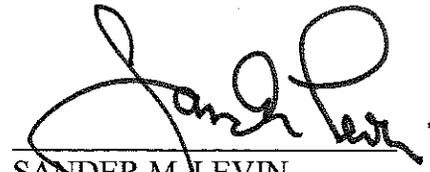


JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress

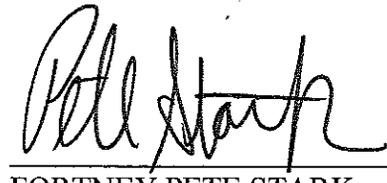

GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress


JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress


JOHN CONYERS, JR.
Member of Congress


SANDER M. LEVIN
Member of Congress


JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress


FORTNEY PETE STARK
Member of Congress

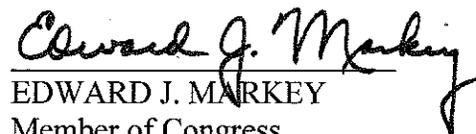

RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress


JAMES P. MORAN
Member of Congress


BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

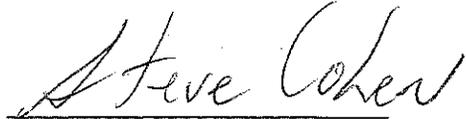

JOHN A. YARMUTH
Member of Congress


JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.
Member of Congress

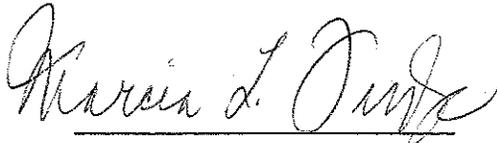

EDWARD J. MARKEY
Member of Congress



MICHAEL E. CAPUANO
Member of Congress



STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress



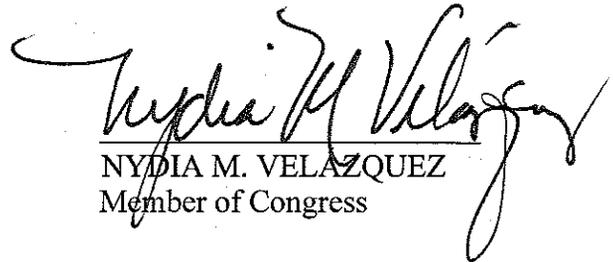
MARCIA L. FUDGE
Member of Congress



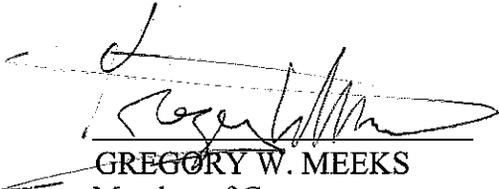
KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress



LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress



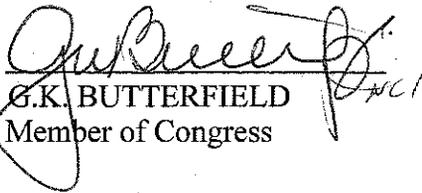
NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ
Member of Congress



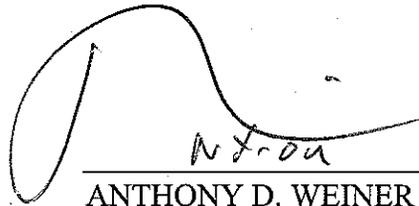
GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress



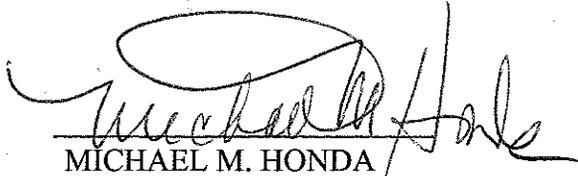
DAVID E. PRICE
Member of Congress



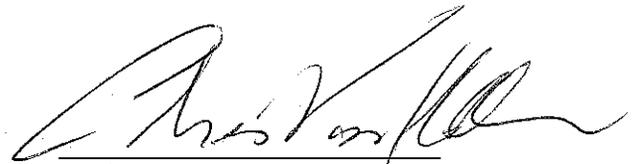
G.K. BUTTERFIELD
Member of Congress



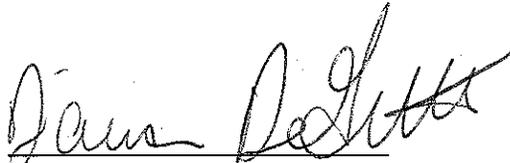
ANTHONY D. WEINER
Member of Congress



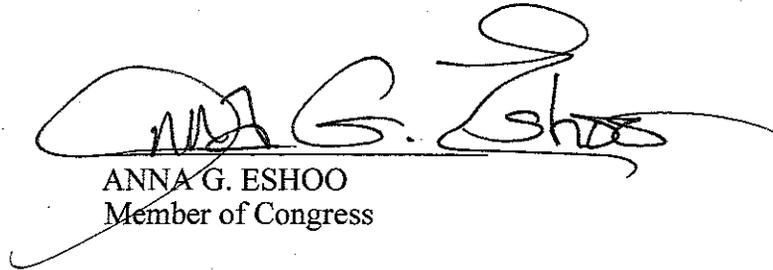
MICHAEL M. HONDA
Member of Congress



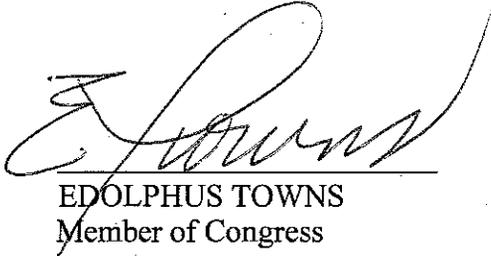
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
Member of Congress



DIANA DEGETTE
Member of Congress



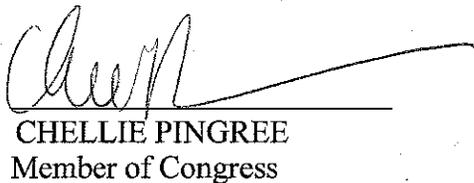
ANNA G. ESHOO
Member of Congress



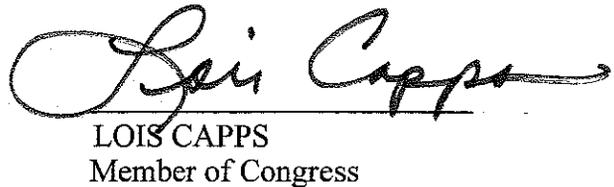
EDOLPHUS TOWNS
Member of Congress



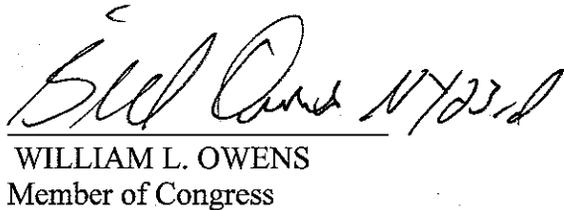
PAUL TONKO
Member of Congress



CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress



LOIS CAPPS
Member of Congress



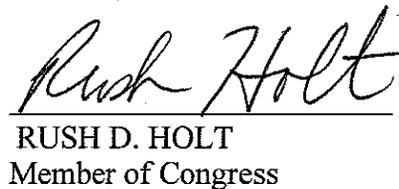
WILLIAM L. OWENS
Member of Congress



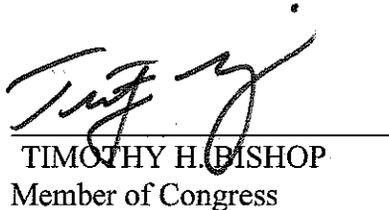
DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN
Member of Congress



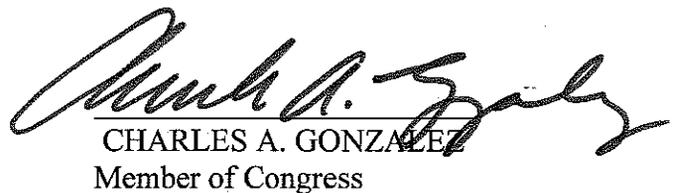
LAURA RICHARDSON
Member of Congress



RUSH D. HOLT
Member of Congress



TIMOTHY H. BISHOP
Member of Congress

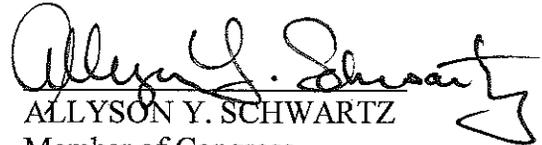


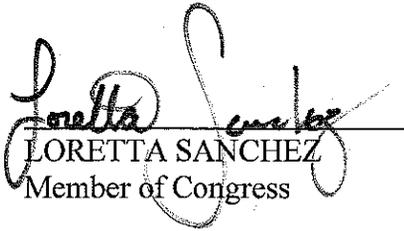
CHARLES A. GONZALEZ
Member of Congress


BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress

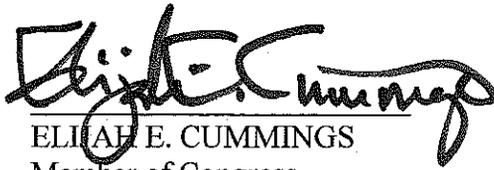

ROSA DELAURO
Member of Congress


JIM MCDERMOTT
Member of Congress


ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ
Member of Congress


LORETTA SANCHEZ
Member of Congress

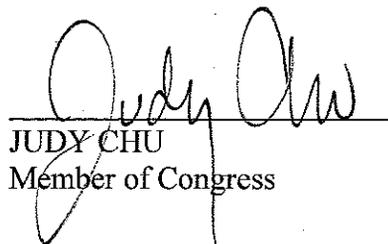

JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress

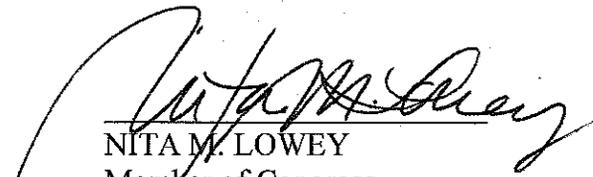

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
Member of Congress


YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress


ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress

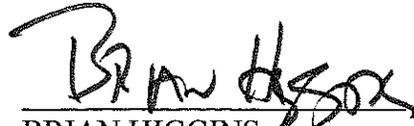

JOE BACA
Member of Congress


JUDY CHU
Member of Congress


NITA M. LOWEY
Member of Congress



CHARLES E. RANGEL
Member of Congress



BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress