

October 1, 2009

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

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Boehner:

We are writing to express our support for your efforts to reform our nation's health care system. As the chief executives of our states and territories, we realize that the status quo is no longer an option and we support getting health reform done this year.

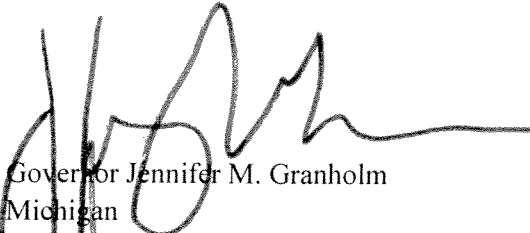
Sky-rocketing health care costs hurt families, force businesses to cut or drop health benefits and cause already strained state budget deficits to significantly grow. We believe reform can relieve these burdens by reining in costs and making coverage more affordable, both for our citizens and our state budgets.

Efforts at the federal level, like the recent and critical investments through the Recovery Act that support states' HIT and prevention initiatives, are beginning the work to lower health care costs. Our citizens and our states, however, will only achieve the health care security and stability they need if we succeed in working together with the Congress and the President to achieve health care reform.


We commend you and your colleagues for provisions included in your bills that will help states and territories. Many of the provisions will allow states and territories to achieve long term savings and help cover those who currently go without health coverage. We recognize that health reform is a shared responsibility and everyone, including state governments, needs to partner to reform our broken health care system.

We thank you for your leadership in this historic effort and look forward to continuing to work together to get health reform passed this year.


Sincerely,



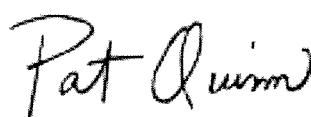
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Michigan



Governor John Baldacci  
Maine




Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski  
Oregon




Governor Pat Quinn  
Illinois




Governor John P. DeLoach, Jr.  
Virgin Islands




Governor Mark Parkinson  
Kansas




Governor Timothy M. Kaine  
Virginia




Governor Martin O'Malley  
Maryland




Governor Christine O. Gregoire  
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Governor Steven L. Beshear  
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Governor Chester J. Culver  
Iowa



Governor Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Colorado




Governor Jack Markell  
Delaware



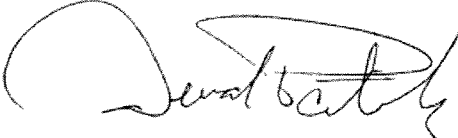
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West Virginia




Governor Bill Richardson  
New Mexico



Governor Jon S. Corzine  
New Jersey



Governor Deval Patrick  
Massachusetts



Governor Ted Strickland  
Ohio

*Edward G. Rendell*

Governor Edward G. Rendell  
Pennsylvania

*Brian Schweitzer*

Governor Brian Schweitzer  
Montana