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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Mr. John Byrd

Government Affairs Manager

Business Coalition for Fair Competition

1856 Old Reston Ave

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Reston, VA 20190

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3505**

December 3, 2009

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Dear Mr. Byrd,

I would like to thank you for your organization's opposition to Speaker Pelosi's legislation for health care reform, and specifically the government takeover of our health care system. Like you, I have great uneasiness with the current proposals for health care reform being discussed by the Obama Administration and Speaker Pelosi. Due to all the negative items contained in Speaker Pelosi's bill, H.R. 3962, I voted against the legislation on the House floor. Both Republicans and Democrats recognize that reform needs to occur in our healthcare system, and real reform will require bipartisan solutions. The U.S. healthcare system is one of the most challenging issues facing our nation, and I appreciate your stance against this legislation, as it would do our nation's healthcare system irreparable harm.

The bill that was before the House on November 7<sup>th</sup>, H.R. 3962, was the same flawed bill as the initial House Democrat bill introduced in July, H.R. 3200, with only a few changes. The bill is a government takeover of healthcare. The bill totals approximately 1,990 pages and completely rewrites nearly 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the nation's economy. The true cost of the legislation as estimated by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is close to \$1.3 trillion. As a result of this legislation, costs will go up, taxes rise, seniors' benefits are cut and it does not come close to fulfilling the promise that if an individual likes his or her current insurance they can keep it.

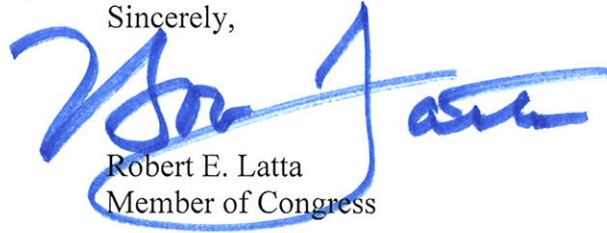
During the debate on the House floor of H.R. 3962, Minority Leader Boehner offered a Republican Substitute Amendment to the legislation, of which I supported. Unfortunately, this amendment was not accepted; however, it would have been a positive alternative for the American people to Speaker Pelosi's legislation. This amendment focused on lowering health premiums for families and small businesses, increasing access to affordable, high-quality care, and promoting healthier lifestyles, all without adding to the crushing debt Washington has placed on our children and grandchildren. One of the items contained in the alternative was a provision that would have established Universal Access Programs to guarantee access to affordable care

for those with pre-existing conditions. This program would have expanded and reformed high-risk pools and reinsurance programs to guarantee that all Americans, regardless of pre-existing conditions or past illness, have access to affordable care, while lowering costs for all Americans.

From the beginning of the health care debate this year, House Republicans have worked to provide meaningful health care reform solutions. No one will argue that we need health care reform, but there is a right and wrong way to approach it. Unfortunately, Speaker Pelosi and House Democrats have rushed this legislation through the House without proper committee hearings. When H.R. 3962 was introduced, I called on Speaker Pelosi to hold hearings across the country to hear directly from the people and how they feel about this bill.

Again, thank you for your opposition to the Affordable Healthcare for America Act. Please be assured that I will continue to work with my fellow Members of Congress on this important issue over the next several months as the focus on this debate shifts to the Senate. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the future with any of your concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Latta", is written over the typed name and title.

Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress

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