

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 22, 2010

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
The Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius,

As staunch defenders of women's access to health care, we are disappointed with the recent announcement restricting women's access to legal health care services in the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP). The clarification, issued by the Department of Health and Human Services, prohibits certain legal reproductive health services from coverage in the PCIP, whether the PCIP is run by the federal government or by individual states.

We urge you to continue to move forward to expand women's access to care, and not narrow the scope of care available. The federal government should not exclude previously uninsured women with pre-existing conditions from accessing legal reproductive health care services.

We are concerned that limiting the range of services that women can access will affect how women and their physicians make private medical decisions. In order to be eligible to enroll in the PCIP, women must both have a pre-existing condition and be uninsured for 6 months. Women with pre-existing conditions may be in medically vulnerable positions, when health considerations and life considerations are most intertwined and complicated.

While we express our concern with this recent clarification for the PCIP, we support your overall commitment to ensure that women have a full range of health care services. We are eager to work with you as implementation of health reform moves forward to expand women's access to health care and a full range of reproductive and preventative health services.

Sincerely,



PAUL W. HODES
Member of Congress



LOUISE SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress



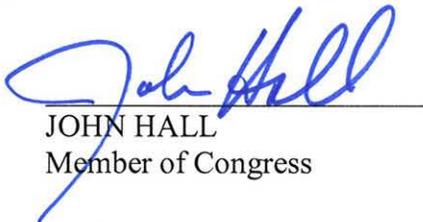
DIANA DEGETTE
Member of Congress



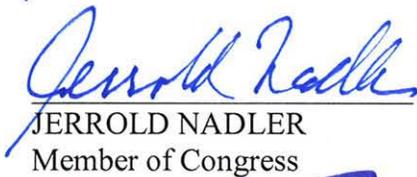
ROSA DELAURO
Member of Congress



LUIS GUITERREZ
Member of Congress



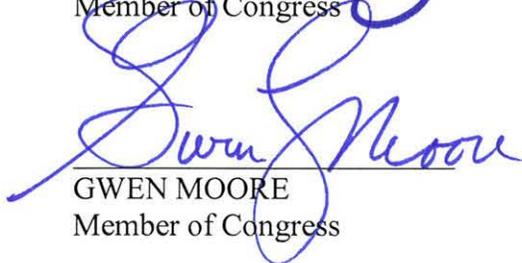
JOHN HALL
Member of Congress



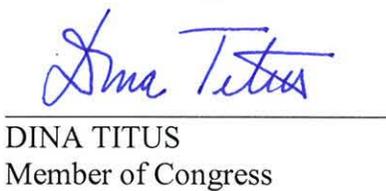
JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress



PETER DEFAZIO
Member of Congress



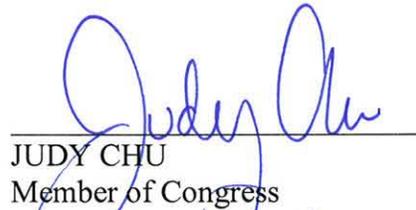
GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress



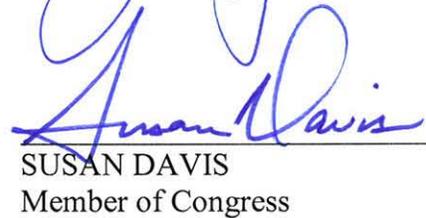
DINA TITUS
Member of Congress



CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress



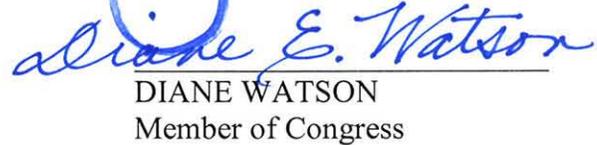
JUDY CHU
Member of Congress



SUSAN DAVIS
Member of Congress



JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



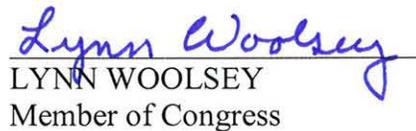
DIANE WATSON
Member of Congress



JACKIE SPEIER
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CAROLYN MALONEY
Member of Congress



LYNN WOOLSEY
Member of Congress



SAM FARR
Member of Congress



BRIAN BAIRD
Member of Congress



DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
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TAMMY BALDWIN
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