

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 5, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman, House Ways & Means Committee
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman, House Energy & Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Chairman, House Education & Labor Committee
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Neal, Pallone, and Scott,

Thank you for the work you have done in your committees exploring ways we can lower health care costs, expand coverage and access, and improve quality of care across the country. Our constituents elected a Democratic majority in the House by choosing candidates who stood strongly in support of protecting those with pre-existing conditions and bringing down health care costs for all. Building upon your work and the work of the New Democrat Coalition last Congress, we urge your committees to deliver on the promises made to our constituents by prioritizing strengthening the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and continuing the path toward universal affordable coverage.

First, we believe the House Democratic Caucus should immediately work to stabilize the individual health care marketplace. After years of damage done to the ACA from past Republican Congresses and the Administration, we must start by reversing the sabotage. Junk insurance plans, potentially harmful changes to state innovation waivers, elimination of cost sharing support, and reduced funding for enrollment outreach have only served to make the individual market less stable and uncertain for those with pre-existing conditions.

Second, we can also fortify the ACA by taking proactive steps to bring down costs for consumers. For example, the Congressional Budget Office found that the ACA's temporary transitional reinsurance program reduced premiums by as much as 10 percent. Congress should create a dedicated reinsurance program once more. We also know that expanding health insurance enrollment would strengthen the health care marketplace and lower health care costs for millions of patients. One way to achieve this goal is to create state innovation grants, as was proposed last Congress in H.R. 5155, to help states experiment with new ideas such as auto-enrollment and regional exchanges. Additional actions we could take include providing additional premium assistance, providing more options for Americans near Medicare eligibility age, or reforming bidding areas to encourage competition.

All of these policy solutions would build upon the success of the ACA and deliver on our promises to constituents to work for them and make real progress toward more affordable and universal healthcare. Now that we are in the House Majority, we must follow through on these pledges and take decisive

action to tackle rising health care costs. We know that these issues already have broad bipartisan support, and we urge you to continue your efforts from last Congress. We believe these goals are achievable in the 116th Congress, and the New Democrat Coalition is ready to support you in these efforts.

Sincerely,



Rep. Angie Craig
Co-Chair, Health Care Task Force
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Kurt Schrader
Co-Chair, Health Care Task Force
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Kim Schrier
Co-Chair, Health Care Task Force
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Greg Stanton
Co-Chair, Health Care Task Force
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Derek Kilmer
Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Suzan DelBene
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Annie Kuster
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Scott Peters
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Terri Sewell
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition




Rep. Pete Aguilar
Whip
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Kathleen Rice
Leadership Member
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Ami Bera
Leadership Member
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Jim Himes
Chair Emeritus
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Chrissy Houlahan
Freshman Leadership Rep.
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Mikie Sherrill
Freshman Whip
New Democrat Coalition

Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

Janice
Member of Congress

Greg Wren
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

Amil T. ...
Member of Congress

Brenda J. Boyle
Member of Congress

Leah Hall
Member of Congress

Luis Correa
Member of Congress

Suse Lee
Member of Congress

Donald Beyer
Member of Congress

Stephen ...
Member of Congress

Scott ...
Member of Congress

Lee Scott
Member of Congress

Tom ...
Member of Congress

Cynthia ...
Member of Congress

Anthony J. ...
Member of Congress

Clay ...
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

A. Donald M. ...
Member of Congress

A. Kintanor
Member of Congress

D. ...
Member of Congress

Thomas R. ...
Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

Raja ...
Member of Congress

Deft
Member of Congress

X ...
Member of Congress

Haley M ...
Member of Congress

Latie Hill
Member of Congress

Ed ...
Member of Congress

Vivian Fletcher

Member of Congress

W.O. Clark

Member of Congress

Bobby Scott

Member of Congress

Avern Howard

Member of Congress

Al Bunn

Member of Congress

D

Member of Congress

Paul Huelskamp

Member of Congress

Paul E. Covel VA-11

Member of Congress

Al Smith

Member of Congress

Julia Brownley

Member of Congress

Colum B. Hoefft

Member of Congress

Bill Foster

Member of Congress

Henry Rouder

Member of Congress

[Signature]

Member of Congress

Tony Cardenas

Member of Congress

Ed Case

Member of Congress

Denny Heck

Member of Congress

Brenda L. Lawrence

Member of Congress

Norma F. Jones

Member of Congress

Ron Kind

Member of Congress

[Signature]

Member of Congress

Dawn Seaton

Member of Congress

Lucy McBath

Member of Congress

Lisa Blunt Rochester

Member of Congress

[Signature]

Member of Congress

Elinor Swartz

Member of Congress

[Signature]

Member of Congress

[Signature]

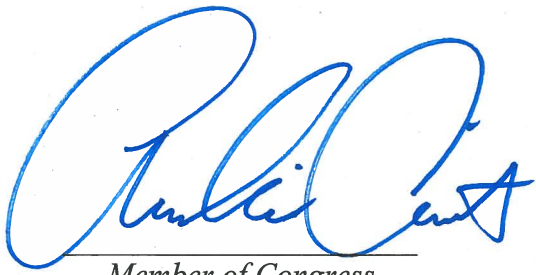
Member of Congress

[Signature]

Member of Congress

[Signature]

Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pauli Cant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pauli" and the last name "Cant" clearly distinguishable.

Member of Congress