

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 28, 2008

Dear Senators Obama and McCain,

We are writing to ask that you assign your chief economic advisor and health policy advisors to begin working with our coalition on the issue of fixing American health care. We believe it is vital that we start working now to ensure that all our people have high quality, affordable health care early in the next administration without breaking the bank.

In your respective campaigns both of you have made health care reform a top priority. Here in the United States Senate we have assembled the first large bi-partisan coalition to work for comprehensive health care reform. Specifically, eight Senate Democrats and eight Senate Republicans have joined in co-sponsoring the Healthy Americans Act, S.334.

The Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation have analyzed our proposed legislation. They assume the plan we have put forward in S.334 would start in 2012 and stated:

"Overall, our preliminary analysis indicates that the proposal would be roughly budget-neutral in 2014. That is, our analysis suggests that your proposal would be self-financing in the first year that it was fully implemented. That net result reflects large gross changes in federal revenues and outlays that would roughly offset each other... For the years after 2014, we anticipate that the fiscal impact would improve gradually, so that the proposal would tend to become more than self-financing and thereby reduce future budget deficits or increase future surpluses."

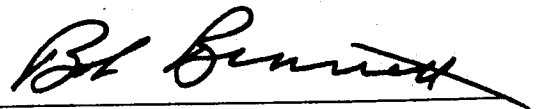
Like you both, we are deeply committed to avoiding a replay of the bitter, highly polarized health reform effort during the 1990s. We have carefully analyzed why that and past health reform efforts have failed: We believe that starting with a strong, bi-partisan coalition of Senators and a sound fiscal base will allow a reform initiative to survive the assaults of politics and interests that afflict any serious reform proposal.

With a revenue neutral or better review by the Congressional budget experts and our committed group of co-sponsors, we have established a strong base from which our new President can guarantee high quality, affordable health care for every American and bring skyrocketing health care costs under control.

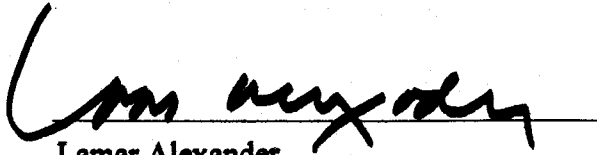
We know you share our view that the American people deserve better than traditional Washington gridlock. We know that you understand the urgent need for health care reform at the beginning of the next administration. We know that the new President will have a full in-box with many challenges to tackle. We know if we start working now on health care reform with you and your key staff, our efforts will succeed soon after a new President is sworn in.



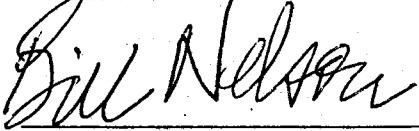
Ron Wyden



Robert Bennett



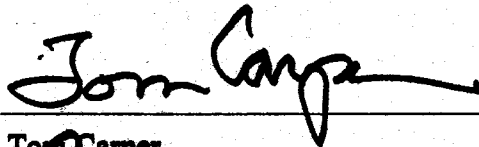
Lamar Alexander



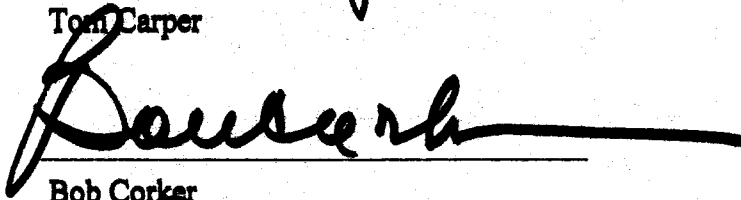
Bill Nelson



Gordon Smith



Tom Carper



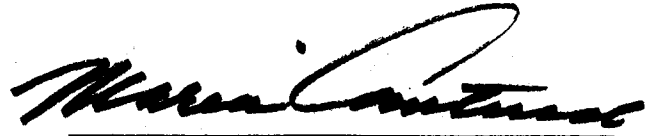
Bob Corker



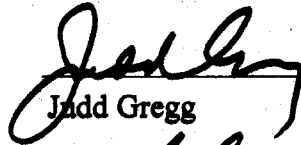
Debbie Stabenow



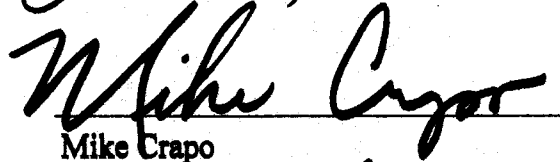
Norm Coleman



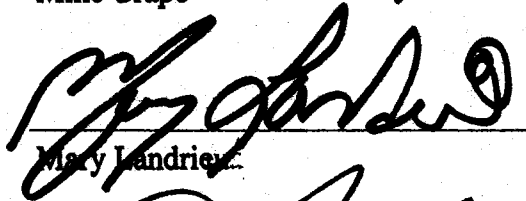
Maria Cantwell



Judd Gregg



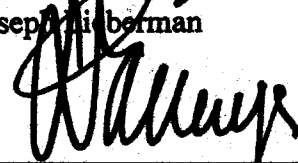
Mike Crapo



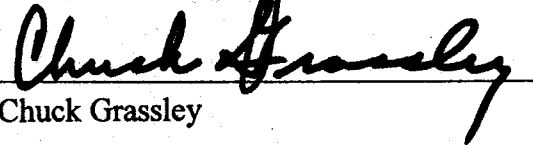
Mary Landrieu



Joseph Lieberman



Daniel Inouye



Chuck Grassley