

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 9, 2010

John J. Castellani
President
Business Roundtable
1717 Rhode Island Avenue NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Castellani:

At a time when millions of young adults are entering a job market in which they not only cannot find jobs but also cannot find affordable health insurance, we are writing to urge the Business Roundtable members to help address this growing problem by voluntarily allowing working families to cover their adult children with their parents' health insurance. While employers will be legally required to do this starting in September 2010, this will leave many graduating students and others without any health coverage for at least several months. We urge the Business Roundtable members to take action now to extend coverage to these young adults, rather than waiting until legally required to provide this coverage.

Taking this action now offers much-needed relief to families. Allowing adult children to stay on their parents' policies until the age of 26 will open new doors for millions of people who would otherwise be uninsured. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, about 13.7 million people ages 19 to 29 years old lack insurance, accounting for almost a third of the overall uninsured population.

As the Department of Health and Human Services has sought to implement this provision of the health reform law, over 60 insurance companies have voluntarily agreed to comply before the September 23, 2010 deadline. And yet among 661 employers responding to a survey by Towers Watson & Co., 16% said they would extend the coverage before the required effective date, 78% said they would wait until the effective date and 6% did not yet know.

It seems remarkable in this instance that health insurers seem to be more willing to make changes to improve the health care system than employers. We write to ask you why employers, specifically your members, have not come to the table to quickly implement the young adult policy.

At this time of year, our nation's college seniors are graduating and entering a job market that is in the midst of recovering from a devastating recession. If a recent college graduate is lucky enough to find a job, he or she is likely to have an entry-level position. For this reason, he or she is unlikely to have access to the comprehensive insurance plans that many of your members

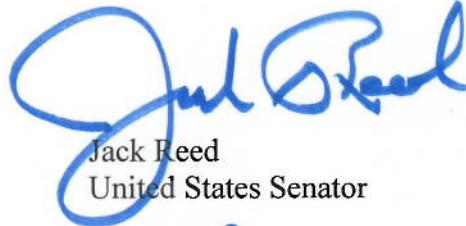
provide. Further, providing this coverage to young adults is affordable for both workers and employers. An analysis by the Department of Health and Human Services estimates that adding 1.2 million of these young adults to their parents' policies will raise premiums less than 1%.

On behalf of the millions of young adults who would benefit greatly from the security of health insurance following their college graduations, we urge a rapid response to this request. We believe that there could be a great benefit from your and your members' willingness to act proactively to implement this crucial reform to our nation's health care system. A recent Business Roundtable press release about the organization's efforts to reform the health system stated, "Our CEO's passion for affordable, quality health care for all Americans was at the heart of this campaign..." We believe it is time to transform those words into action.

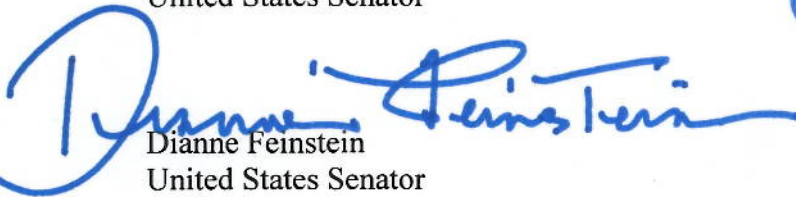
Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Robert F. Casey Jr.
United States Senator