

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 14, 2020

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We noted your announcement in the 2020 State of the Union that you would protect patients with pre-existing conditions, and we hoped that priority would be reflected in your Fiscal Year 2021 budget request. Unfortunately, your “Budget for America’s Future” does exactly the opposite. It fully funds the Department of Justice’s ongoing efforts to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) in its entirety through the courts, and it provides no alternative, no replacement, no hope for the 133 million Americans with pre-existing conditions, including the 54 million Americans with pre-existing conditions who would be completely uninsurable without the basic protections provided by the ACA.

The health care laws on the books today include clear protections that prohibit insurance companies from discriminating against individuals with pre-existing conditions. Over the past six years, we have seen millions of Americans, many for the first time, gain affordable health care coverage through Medicaid expansion. This coverage expansion resulted in a major reduction in the uninsured rate, including for women and people of color, and it has also allowed Americans suffering from substance use disorders and mental illness to gain access to the treatment they need to recover. Sadly, instead of building on this progress and working together to continue to improve health care outcomes for all patients, we are having to fight our very own Department of Justice (DOJ) in court just to maintain the status quo.

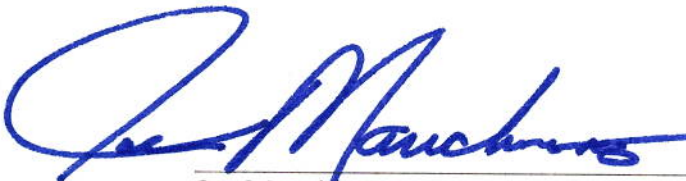
We are disappointed that the “Budget for America’s Future” continues to fund the DOJ’s legally unsound position in *Texas v. United States*. You could bring peace of mind to millions of Americans tomorrow by simply directing the DOJ to do its job and defend the law of the land instead of arguing against protections for people with pre-existing conditions and against access to affordable health care coverage. If the health care law is repealed, nearly every American’s health care will be affected, and once again insurance companies will be allowed to put profits over patients, deciding who can and who cannot access affordable health insurance.

There is widespread recognition that simply repealing the law without a replacement would be devastating to American families and to our economy, yet the “Budget for America’s Future” makes no mention of the millions of people who would lose health care coverage should the DOJ succeed in court. Instead, it promotes the sale of short-term or “junk” health plans that threaten access to quality and affordable care for Americans with pre-existing conditions and for which insurers often refuse to cover people with pre-existing conditions altogether. Already, we have

heard horror stories from families nationwide unknowingly purchasing these junk plans that do not cover their pre-existing conditions. Your proposed budget refuses to withdraw these harmful regulations, which make it easier for insurance companies to discriminate against people who desperately need prescription drugs, maternity care, and mental health or substance use disorder treatment.

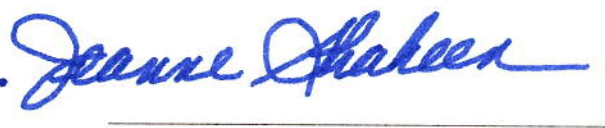
Americans need us to work together to defend their access to quality, affordable health care. We have proven that we can improve our health care system and reduce costs when we put politics aside and people first. It is not too late to reverse course on *Texas v. United States*. It is not too late to work together to build on the successes of the ACA. We urge you to work with us on protecting and expanding access to affordable health care for all Americans.

Sincerely,



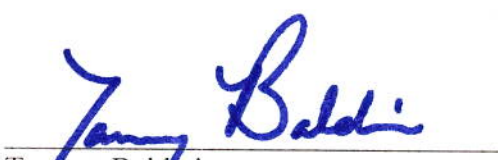
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Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator




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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



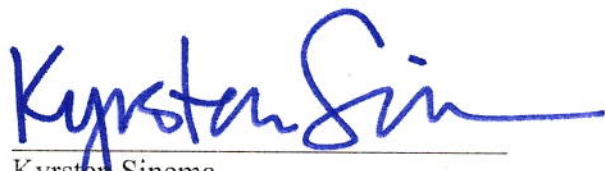
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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



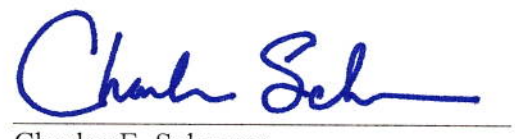
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Doug Jones  
United States Senator



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Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



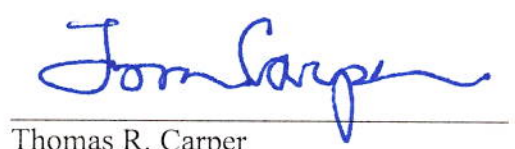
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Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

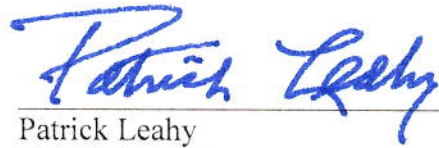


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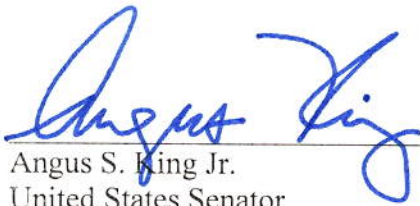
Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



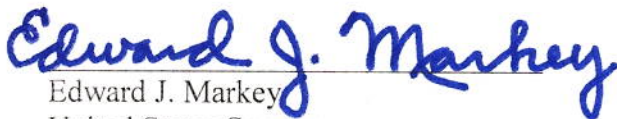
Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator



Angus S. King Jr.  
United States Senator



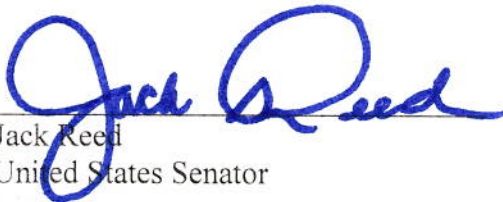
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



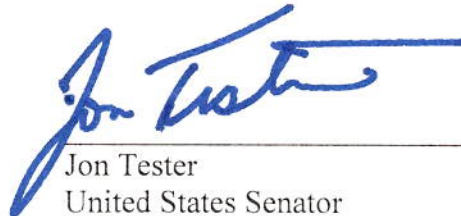
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



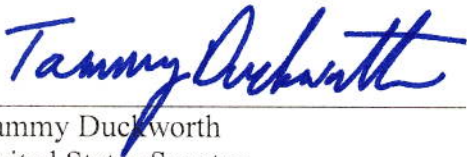
Tom Udall  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



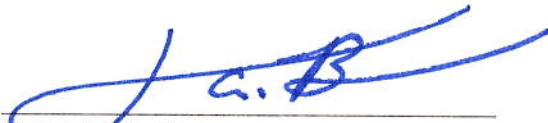
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator




Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



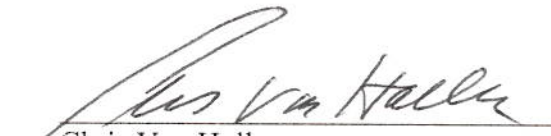
Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator

  
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator

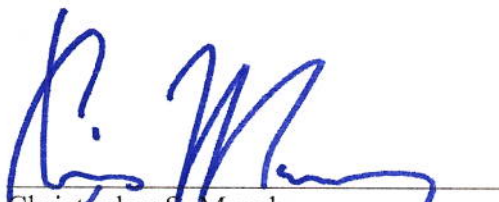
  
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator


  
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator


  
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

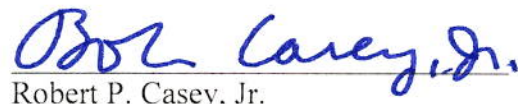
  
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

  
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator

  
Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator

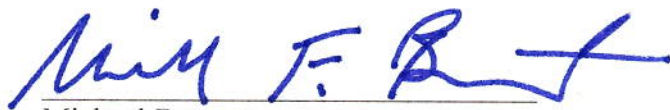
  
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

  
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator

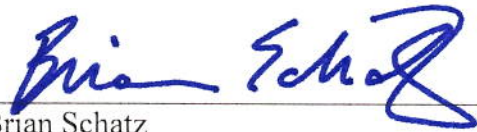
  
Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator

  
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator

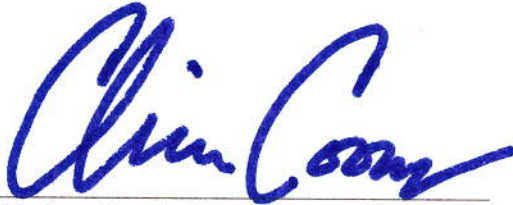
  
Tina Smith  
United States Senator



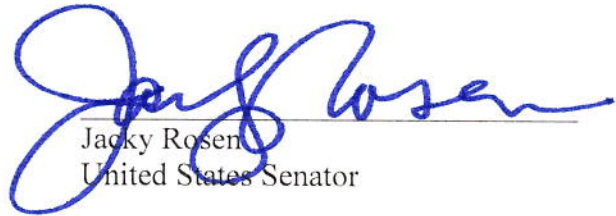
Michael Bennet  
United States Senator



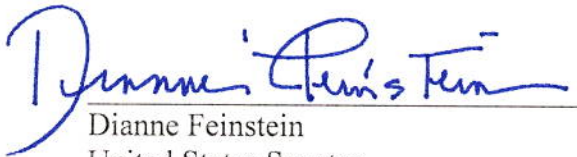
Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator




Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



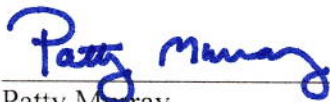
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



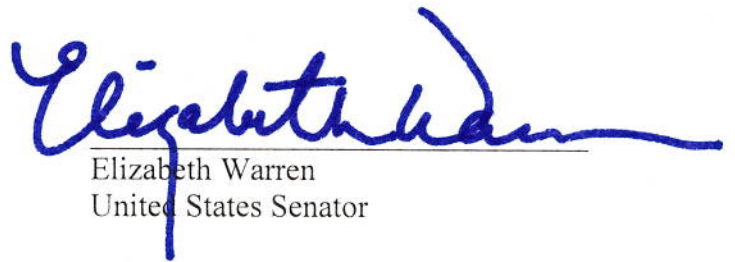
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



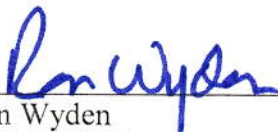
Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



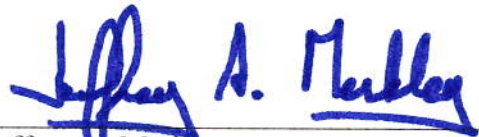
Patty Murray  
United States Senator



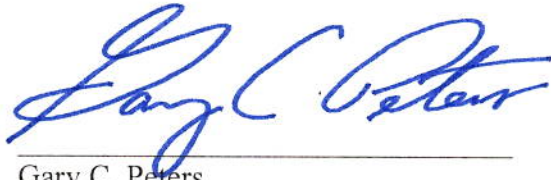
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



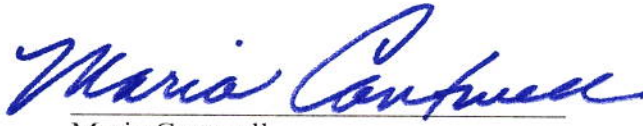
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator