Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 10, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On December 3, 2013, you gave a speech regarding the implementation of your law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). While much was said during this speech, we were most interested in your invitation to those with alternative health care reform proposals. Specifically, you said: "If you've got good ideas, bring them to me....[If] you still think this law is a bad idea then you've got to tell us specifically what you'd do differently to cut costs, cover more people, make insurance more secure."

Since the inception of the ACA in 2009, many of us have offered countless alternative health care reform proposals. These include those proposals discussed on February 25, 2010, at your "Health Care Summit," with Members of Congress, as well as the more than 200 bills that have been introduced by House Republicans during the current Congress. We have compiled a number of these specific proposals at the end of this letter and request a meeting to discuss these and other alternative health care reform proposals with you.

There is no question that our health care system needs significant reform. We firmly believe that the delivery of health care must embrace quality- and patient-centered principles that use competition and innovation to drive down costs, crack down on frivolous lawsuits, and reduce waste, fraud, and abuse. A top-down, factory-like, "one-size-fits-all" system, in which decisions are centralized in the hands of government bureaucrats, does not benefit Americans. This was true before the ACA was passed, and it is even truer now given the problems Americans have encountered in recent months with millions of cancelled policies, reduced work hours, and the failed launch of the www.healthcare.gov website.

While we understand your desire to preserve your signature piece of legislation, it is a false choice to say that the ACA is the only way to reform health care. The following are some of the ideas contained in the more than 200 health care-related bills introduced by House Republicans, and which would achieve much-needed health care reform:

- **Making health insurance companies compete nationwide, across state lines.** Americans should have the freedom to buy health insurance from any provider;

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- **Guaranteeing people with pre-existing conditions can get affordable coverage.** Creating high risk pools with premium caps and expanding Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) protections will ensure access to coverage;

- **Providing a universal tax incentive for buying health insurance.** Whether Americans buy health insurance independently or through an employer, the tax code should treat everyone equally and fairly;

- **Empowering families with tax-free Health Savings Accounts (HSAs).** Letting families save more for health care expenses will encourage financial stability;

- **Increasing transparency in billing so consumers know what they are paying for.** In the age of the Internet, everyone can see prices and reviews of anything before buying—except when it comes to health care. Informed choices are better choices;

- **Enabling small businesses and other groups to pool their coverage.** Letting employers partner together to get the same insurance rates as large corporations will lower costs;

- **Cracking down on junk lawsuits.** Capping attorney fees and reforming our legal system will let doctors focus on giving patients the care they truly need and save the time and money wasted by frivolous claims;

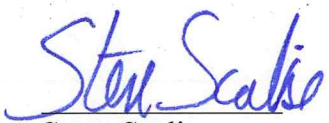
- **Reducing the doctor shortage.** Incentivizing primary care physicians to work in underserved areas will increase access and improve quality of care;

- **Giving states flexibility to improve Medicaid through innovation.** After it was freed from some federal mandates, Rhode Island increased choice and expanded access for low-income Americans while reducing costs. Other states should be able to do the same;

We appreciate your offer to discuss alternative proposals, and we look forward to meeting with you at your earliest convenience. Ms. Tory Thoet in Rep. Tim Griffin's office is the principle point of contact for coordinating this meeting, and she may be reached by email at tory.thoet@mail.house.gov and by phone on (202) 225-2506.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



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