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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

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June 23, 2009

Dr. Douglas W. Elmendorf  
Director  
Congressional Budget Office  
Ford House Office Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Second and D Streets, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Dr. Elmendorf:

In the debate on health care reform during the election of 2008, President Obama promised the American people that, if they liked their health insurance, they could keep it and that nothing would come between patients and their doctors. Yet the Chairmen of the Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Education and Labor Committees released draft legislation on June 19, 2009, that would break these promises through the creation of a government health plan which will necessarily insert government bureaucrats into the doctor-patient relationship and impose numerous mandates on small and large businesses. In short, the Democrat legislation would alter health care as the American people know it by authorizing the federal government takeover of our country's health care system while dramatically increasing the deficit.

We are writing to respectfully request that you analyze the House Democrat bill as expeditiously as possible. Speaker Pelosi has indicated that this legislation will be marked up before the committees of jurisdiction and debated on the House floor by the beginning of August. Before Congress changes health care as the American people know it, we must know the likely consequences of the House Democrat legislation, including the number of people who would lose access to their current insurance, the number of jobs lost due to business taxes, the number of uninsured people who would obtain coverage, and the extent of the cannibalization of employer coverage due to Medicaid expansion. As shown by your recent analysis of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions legislation, which would increase

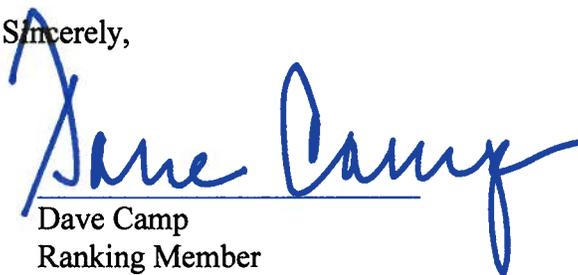
coverage by a net of 16 million people while costing over \$1 trillion, health care reform would cause dramatic changes in our country, not only for patients but also for our budget deficit.

Given the stated intention of the Majority to have Committees consider this legislation during the week of July 6, we ask that you please provide a preliminary cost estimate on this legislation by Monday, July 6.

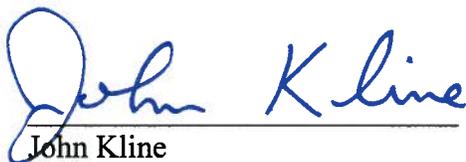
Sincerely,



Joe Barton  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Dave Camp  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways and Means



John Kline  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and Labor



Paul Ryan  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Budget