

AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL

ALEC

February 24, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

Earlier this month, we learned of your call for a bipartisan summit so that our nation can move forward in solving our health care crisis. And now tomorrow, a select group of federal lawmakers will contribute their health reform vision to the national dialogue.

However, we think you're missing a critical element in this discussion—the ideas of thousands of state legislators. We know that any federal health care legislation will eventually rely on the states to implement, manage, and fund the reform effort. Many state legislators, like us, are also concerned about the effects that a proposed individual or employer mandate will have on our citizens and small businesses. We are disappointed that state legislators have not been involved in this effort and that you would not include state legislators in tomorrow's meeting.

That's why we're moving forward with a nationwide effort to ensure that the cornerstone of any state or federal health reform is the protection of patients' rights. We are the sponsors of the *Freedom of Choice in Health Care Act*, an initiative by 36 states to protect our patients' rights to pay directly for medical care, and to prohibit the government from fining our citizens for failing to purchase government-approved health insurance. This quickly-moving measure was recently passed with bipartisan support in houses of the Virginia and Tennessee legislatures, and will be put before Arizona voters in November.

So while you discuss health reform solutions at Blair House tomorrow, we will pursue our own initiatives—not only to protect health care freedom, but to also reduce health costs; increase access to quality, affordable health insurance; and improve the quality of care. We know you share these goals, we believe that there are valuable lessons to be learned as state legislators move ahead with innovative health reform solutions, and we continue to hope that state legislators will be invited to participate as this process moves forward.

Sincerely,



Representative Linda Upmeyer
Minority Whip, Iowa House District 12
Chair, ALEC's HHS Task Force

Representative Mac Gipson
Alabama House District 88

Representative Mike Kelly
Alaska House District 7

Representative Nancy Barto
Arizona House District 7

Representative Dan Greenberg
Arkansas House District 31

Representative Scott Plakon
Florida House District 37

Senator Judson Hill
Georgia Senate District 32

Representative Jim Clark
Idaho House District 3

Representative Cindy Noe
Indiana House District 87

Senator Mary Pilcher-Cook
Kansas Senate District 10

Representative Addia Wuchner
Kentucky House District 66

Senator Alex Mooney
Maryland Senate District 3

Delegate Christopher Shank
Maryland House District 2B

Senator Wayne Kuipers
Michigan Senate District 30

Representative Tom Emmer
Minnesota House District 19B

Representative Alex Monsour
Mississippi House District 54

Representative Tim Jones
Missouri House District 89

Senator Roy Brown
Montana Senate District 25

Representative Krayton Kerns
Montana House District 58

Representative Tom McGillvray
Montana House District 50

Representative Ken Peterson
Montana House District 46

Senator Jim Shockley
Montana Senate District 45

Representative Cary Smith
Montana House District 55

Senator Bruce Tutvedt
Montana Senate District 3

Representative Wendy Warburton
Montana House District 34

Senator Beau McCoy
Nebraska Senate District 39

Representative Andrew Renzullo
New Hampshire House District 27

Representative Keith Gardner
New Mexico House District 66

Representative Bill Sharer
New Mexico Senate District 1

Senator Phil Berger
North Carolina Senate District 26

Representative Blair Thoreson
North Dakota House District 44

Representative Ron Maag
Ohio House District 35

Representative Mike Ritze
Oklahoma House District 80

Representative Matt Baker
Pennsylvania House District 68

Senator Leo Blais
Rhode Island Senate District 21

Senator Mike Rose
South Carolina Senate District 38

Representative Phil Jensen
South Dakota House District 33

Representative Manny Steele
South Dakota House District 12

Representative Susan Lynn
Tennessee House District 57

Representative Carl Wimmer
Utah House District 52

Delegate Bob Marshall
Virginia House District 13

Senator Jill Vogel
Virginia Senate District 27

Delegate Jonathan Miller
West Virginia Delegate District 53

Senator Val Stevens
Washington Senate District 39