Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2010

Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Dear Governor Strickland:

Earlier this year you wrote to urge us to support the president's health care bill, arguing the bill would lower Ohioans' health care costs. We know now, based on a report released by the Obama administration itself last week, that the bill does precisely the opposite and actually increases Americans' health care costs, as Republicans warned it would. This week you sent us another letter, this time urging us to support the president's financial regulation bill that he insists will prevent future problems, despite warnings from Republicans that it will hurt small businesses and local banks while doing nothing to reform Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the government mortgage companies that sparked the financial collapse by giving too many high-risk loans to people who could not afford them.

Ohioans were misled by the Obama administration about the impact of the president's health care legislation. They cannot afford to be misled again when it comes to the president's financial regulation bill. In light of the new revelations about the consequences of the president's health care law and the waning credibility of the Obama administration's claims in Washington, we write today to respectfully ask that you reevaluate your support for the president's financial regulation bill on the basis of the harm it will bring to Ohio taxpayers, small businesses, and small banks while failing to address the root causes of the financial meltdown. We also ask that you take a look at the alternative proposal offered by Congressional Republicans, which would end taxpayer bailouts of Wall Street giants and reform Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

As Ohio continues to struggle with prolonged double-digit unemployment, middle-class families and small businesses in our state are becoming increasingly concerned by the growing credibility gap they are seeing in Washington and Columbus. With your administration's support, President Obama forced his trillion-dollar health care overhaul through Congress with promises that it would lower health care costs and address our nation's ballooning deficits.

It has since been confirmed that the new law your administration endorsed will actually increase health care costs and threaten jobs at a time we can least afford it. As the *Columbus Dispatch* noted in an April 28 editorial: "The latest analysis of the bill's likely effects comes from the Office of the Actuary in the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [CMS]. The report by Chief Actuary Richard S. Foster says that, far from reducing the cost of health care, the overhaul will add $311 billion to the nation's health-care costs over the first decade the law is in effect. . .The nation deserved something much, much better than this."

Just days after the bill became law, a number of employers from across the country, including Ohio's own AK Steel and Kroger, began to warn shareholders and employees about the higher health care costs that would result. All told, in just 10 days, America's major employers reported $2.8 billion in additional costs that are likely to be passed on to working families in the form of lost jobs, diminished benefits and other losses. Economists predict that the total tally could reach $14 billion, dealing a devastating blow to job creation in the United States at a time when our state is already struggling with double-digit unemployment. While the White House and leading Democrats in Congress initially lashed out at these employers, the *New York Times* recently reported that "after investigating, House Democrats have concluded that the companies were right to tell investors and the government about the expected adverse effects of the law."

The CMS analysis also confirms that that the president's health care law will increase what the nation spends on health care over the next 10 years by $311 billion, while kicking seven million Americans off Medicare in order to finance a new federal entitlement spending program. As the *Columbus Dispatch* noted, the adverse consequences of the new law "should be no surprise, considering that the law was slapped together behind closed doors without proper testimony and vetting by health-care, financial and insurance experts, and is a patchwork of political and special-interest deals rammed through Congress using procedural gimmicks."

This is not the first time in the past year that the American people have been misled to usher in new wasteful spending and government controls that have only delayed economic recovery. As you may recall, the trillion-dollar "stimulus" was enacted amid promises from the Obama administration – and, frankly, your own administration – that it would create jobs immediately, and keep the national unemployment rate from rising above 8 percent. But more than one year later, an additional 100,000 Ohioans have lost their jobs, the national unemployment rate is nearly 10 percent, and the state's unemployment has risen to 11 percent.

The same presidential administration that made these unfulfilled promises about the "stimulus" and the health care overhaul is now attempting to persuade Americans to accept a financial regulatory bill on the promise that it will "clean up Wall Street" and prevent a future economic meltdown. But as with the health care bill and the "stimulus," the real world effects of the bill are likely to be much different from the picture painted by the president.

Under the president's proposal, small banks in Ohio and other states will be subject to a bevy of new burdensome regulations. Among other things, the bill creates a new layer of bureaucracy, dubbed the Consumer Financial Protection Agency, that will impose new rules on banks of all sizes, and have a wide array of powers to shut down any financial product it chooses and send examiners into any local bank at its own discretion. As you may know, small local banks across Ohio are very concerned that new compliance burdens and fees resulting from these new rules and regulations will devastate their ability to serve their communities and provide the credit needed to help get our state's economy moving again.

Congressional Republicans' financial reform plan will protect taxpayers and consumers, hold Wall Street accountable for its bad bets, and address the root causes of the financial crisis without imposing job-killing mandates on local small banks. We've also offered common-sense solutions to lower health care costs for middle-class families and help small businesses create the jobs that the people of our state are looking for. You can read more about our plan at http://tiny.cc/gopsolution.

Ohioans were misled by the Obama administration about the impact of the president's health care legislation. They cannot afford to be misled again when it comes to the president's financial regulation bill. We respectfully ask that you conduct a second review of the president's financial regulation bill and consider the harm it will bring to Ohio taxpayers, small businesses, and small banks, and consider supporting the Republican alternative, which will end the bailouts once and for all, and reform the government mortgage companies that caused the financial meltdown.

Sincerely,

John A. Boehner
United States Representative

Steven C. LaTourette
United States Representative

Patrick J. Tiberi
United States Representative

Jean Schmidt
United States Representative

Jim Jordan
United States Representative

Robert E. Latta
United States Representative

Steve Austria
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