

Co-Chairs

Lynn Woolsey
Raúl Grijalva
Vice Chairs
Diane Watson
Keith Ellison
Sheila Jackson-Lee
Mazie Hirono
Dennis Kucinich
Donna Edwards
Alan Grayson

Senate Members

Bernie Sanders
Tom Udall

House Members

Neil Abercrombie
Tammy Baldwin
Xavier Becerra
Earl Blumenauer
Robert Brady
Corrine Brown
Michael Capuano
Andre Carson
Donna Christensen
Judy Chu
Yvette Clarke
William "Lacy" Clay
Emanuel Cleaver
Steve Cohen
John Conyers
Elijah Cummings
Danny Davis
Peter DeFazio
Rosa DeLauro
Sam Farr
Chaka Fattah
Bob Filner
Barney Frank
Marcia Fudge
Luis Guterierrez
John Hall
Phil Hare
Alcee Hastings
Maurice Hinchey
Michael Honda
Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Hank Johnson
Marcy Kaptur
Carolyn Kilpatrick
Barbara Lee
John Lewis
David Loebsack
Ben Ray Lujan
Carolyn Maloney
Ed Markey
Eric Massa
Jim McDermott
James McGovern
George Miller
Gwen Moore
Jim Moran
Jerrold Nadler
Eleanor Holmes-Norton
John Olver
Frank Pallone
Ed Pastor
Donald Payne
Chellie Pingree
Jared Polis
Charles Rangel
Laura Richardson
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Bobby Rush
Linda Sanchez
Jan Schakowsky
Jose Serrano
Louise Slaughter
Pete Stark
Bennie Thompson
John Tierney
Nydia Velazquez
Maxine Waters
Mel Watt
Henry Waxman
Peter Welch

Congressional Progressive Caucus

<http://cpc.grijalva.house.gov>

83 Strong and Growing: Open to New and Different Ideas

September 20, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

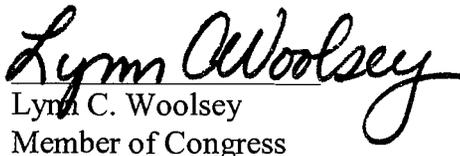
Dear Madam Speaker:

We write to see how we can best work with you to ensure that a robust public plan with Medicare rates plus 5% is included in the final health reform bill.

In July, 60 Members signed a letter saying they could not support an agreement made in the Committee on Energy and Commerce that would require the public plan to use negotiated rates rather than Medicare plus 5% rates, which could delay the start of the public plan, reduce its savings, and reduce its ability to drive down costs. As you stated last week, the Congressional Budget Office scored the Committees on Education and Labor and Ways and Means bill with the Medicare plus 5% rates at \$110 billion in savings compared to the Committee on Energy and Commerce at \$25 billion in savings. The loss in savings the Committee on Energy and Commerce brought by this change was offset by reducing subsidies to low-and middle-income families, requiring them to pay a larger portion of their income for insurance premiums, is something we find unacceptable.

As we're sure you agree, these numbers demonstrate the importance of a robust public plan tied to Medicare. We look forward to meeting with you to discuss how we can work together to include a robust public plan that will increase competition, bring down costs, and provide the necessary savings to ensure robust subsidies to those who need help paying for health insurance.

Sincerely,


Lynn C. Woolsey
Member of Congress


Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress