

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 1, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

As new members of the U.S. House of Representatives, we write to request quick action to address health care affordability. Rising health care costs remain a primary concern for American families and small businesses, a message we hear frequently in our districts.

One way to immediately address these concerns and demonstrate our bipartisan commitment to lower health care costs is to prevent the return of the Health Insurance Tax (HIT) for 2020 and 2021 – thereby lowering health insurance premiums for consumers and protecting nearly half of all Americans from higher health care costs. We respectfully request your consideration of a delay of the HIT in appropriate legislation that will become law before the end of the year.

Congress has previously come together on a bipartisan basis to address this important issue, most recently by including a suspension of the tax for 2019 in a continuing resolution that was signed into law last year. A suspension of the HIT was enacted because there is broad recognition that the tax increases health care costs for consumers. Absent further Congressional action this year to delay the tax, the HIT will return, impacting approximately 142 million Americans.

According to an Oliver Wyman analysis, reinstatement of the HIT in 2020 would result in a premium increase of \$479 for families with small group coverage and \$458 for families with fully insured large group coverage. Additionally, seniors enrolled in Medicare Advantage would see higher premiums, an average \$241 increase for nearly 22 million seniors in Medicare Advantage plans. Consumers in the individual market and state Medicaid programs would also be impacted, seeing an estimated increase in premiums by \$196 and \$157 respectively. At a time when approximately 40% of Americans would struggle to cover an unexpected expense of \$400, and many seniors live on fixed incomes, this tax would add an unnecessary financial burden for millions of Americans.

As Congress considers policies to bring down health care costs, acting immediately to extend a moratorium on the HIT for 2020 and beyond is a step Congress can take now to protect individuals and families, seniors, and small businesses from higher health care costs. As broader conversations on improving health care continue, we urge you to include a delay of the HIT for 2020 and 2021 in legislation that must pass before the end of the year, to deliver lower health care costs to millions of Americans across the country.

Sincerely,

Anthony Brindisi

Anthony Brindisi  
Member of Congress

John Joyce

John Joyce, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Haley M. Stevens

Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress

TJ Cox

TJ Cox  
Member of Congress

Jefferson Van Drew

Jefferson Van Drew  
Member of Congress

Kelly Armstrong

Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress

Dusty Johnson

Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas

Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress

Ben Cline

Ben Cline  
Member of Congress

Anthony Gonzalez

Anthony Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

Fred Keller

Fred Keller  
Member of Congress

Harley Rouda

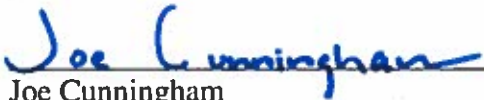
Harley Rouda  
Member of Congress



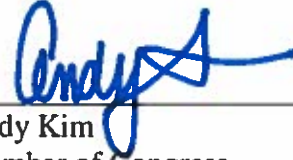
Guy Reschenthaler  
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress



Joe Cunningham  
Member of Congress



Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress



Michael Guest  
Member of Congress



Ron Wright  
Member of Congress



Daniel P. Meuser  
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress



Greg Pence  
Member of Congress



Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Ross Spano  
Member of Congress



Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



Antonio Delgado  
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Jim Hagedorn  
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop  
Member of Congress



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
Member of Congress



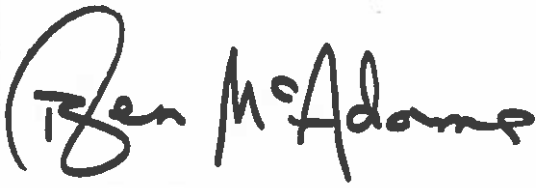
Donna E. Shalala  
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



Ben McAdams  
Member of Congress



Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress



Susie Lee  
Member of Congress



Denver Riggleman  
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William R. Timmons, IV  
Member of Congress



Bryan Steil  
Member of Congress



Kendra S. Horn  
Member of Congress





Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



Carol D. Miller  
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress



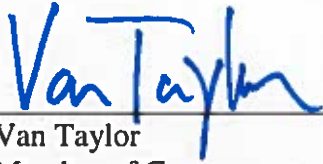
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Abigail D. Spanberger  
Member of Congress



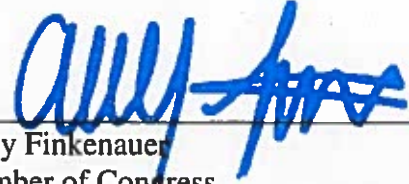
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Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress



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Van Taylor  
Member of Congress



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Abby Finkenauer  
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Richard E. Neal  
Chairman  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
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The Honorable Frank Pallone  
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The Honorable Greg Walden  
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