

SANDER M. LEVIN, MICHIGAN,
ACTING CHAIRMAN

CHARLES B. RANGEL, NEW YORK
FORTNEY PETE STARK, CALIFORNIA
JIM McDERMOTT, WASHINGTON
JOHN LEWIS, GEORGIA
RICHARD E. NEAL, MASSACHUSETTS
JOHN S. TANNER, TENNESSEE
XAVIER BECERRA, CALIFORNIA
LLOYD DOGGETT, TEXAS
EARL POMEROY, NORTH DAKOTA
MIKE THOMPSON, CALIFORNIA
JOHN B. LARSON, CONNECTICUT
EARL BLUMENAUER, OREGON
RON KIND, WISCONSIN
BILL PASCRELL, JR., NEW JERSEY
SHELLEY BERKLEY, NEVADA
JOSEPH CROWLEY, NEW YORK
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND
KENDRICK B. MEEK, FLORIDA
ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ, PENNSYLVANIA
ARTUR DAVIS, ALABAMA
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS
BOB ETHERIDGE, NORTH CAROLINA
LINDA T. SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA
BRIAN HIGGINS, NEW YORK
JOHN A. YARMUTH, KENTUCKY

JANICE MAYS,
CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

1102 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-3625

Washington, DC 20515-6348

<http://waysandmeans.house.gov>

DAVE CAMP, MICHIGAN, RANKING MEMBER
WALLY HERGER, CALIFORNIA
SAM JOHNSON, TEXAS
KEVIN BRADY, TEXAS
PAUL RYAN, WISCONSIN
ERIC CANTOR, VIRGINIA
JOHN LINDER, GEORGIA
DEVIN NUNES, CALIFORNIA
PATRICK J. TIBERI, OHIO
GINNY BROWN-WAITE, FLORIDA
GEOFF DAVIS, KENTUCKY
DAVID G. REICHERT, WASHINGTON
CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR., LOUISIANA
DEAN HELLER, NEVADA
PETER J. ROSKAM, ILLINOIS

JON TRAUB,
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

May 20, 2010

The Honorable Sander M. Levin
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Levin,

In discussing the recently enacted health care bill, Speaker Pelosi stated, “We have to pass the bill so that you can find out what is in it.” Recent reports from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and Office of the Actuary (OACT) at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are proving her right.

On Tuesday, May 11, 2010, CBO released a new analysis predicting that federal spending resulting from the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” (P.L. 111-148) and the “Health Care Education Reconciliation Act” (P.L. 111-152) could increase by an additional \$115 billion over the next 10 years, beyond their original estimate, as a result of additional appropriations needed to implement the legislation. In light of this analysis, we respectfully request that CBO Director Douglas Elmendorf be called before the Committee to discuss CBO’s new findings and the impact on taxpayers.

Also, we would like to reiterate our request from more than three weeks ago that you hold a Full Committee public hearing to allow Richard S. Foster, Chief Actuary at CMS, to testify and be questioned about his analysis of the health care law. We are particularly concerned that the CMS Actuaries predict the new health law will increase – rather than decrease – national health spending, the \$575 billion in Medicare cuts could jeopardize access to care for beneficiaries, millions of Americans will lose their current health plan, and long wait lines could result from a shortage of doctors and hospitals. To date, we have not yet heard from you on our request.

None of this information was available to Members of Congress or the American people prior to passage of the health care law. However, as is clear from the updated analysis, we hold an even larger oversight responsibility than previously estimated.

Given the importance of these reports, and the costs to the American people highlighted therein, we again urge you to hold hearings promptly after Congress returns from the Memorial Day Recess.

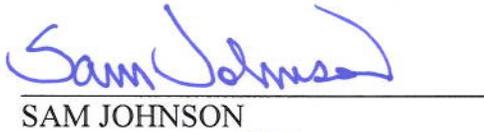
Sincerely,



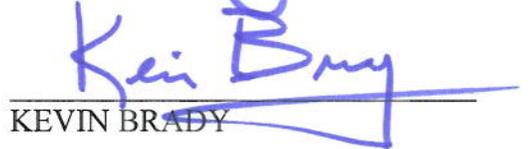
DAVE CAMP
Ranking Member



WALLY HERGER



SAM JOHNSON



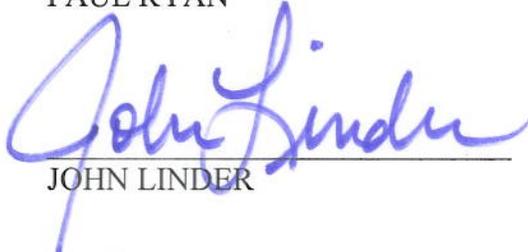
KEVIN BRADY



PAUL RYAN



ERIC CANTOR



JOHN LINDER



DEVIN NUNES



PATRICK TIBERI



GINNY BROWN-WAITE



GEOFF DAVIS



DAVE REICHERT



CHARLES BOUSTANY



DEAN HELLER



PETER ROSKAM