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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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April 25, 2007

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QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE
FOR ALL AMERICANS
COSPONSOR THE "MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT"

Dear Colleague:

There are currently 47 million Americans living without health insurance. This number includes hard-working families and their children who make valuable contributions to our Nation's economy. We know that it is economically wise to invest in insuring Americans—the investment pays off through a stronger, healthier workforce and reduced emergency care costs due to better preventative health care.

The current healthcare financing system places the burden on employers, thereby placing American firms at a major disadvantage due to escalating insurance costs. As a nation, we spend more on health care than the rest of the world—and we are not getting the results to show for it.

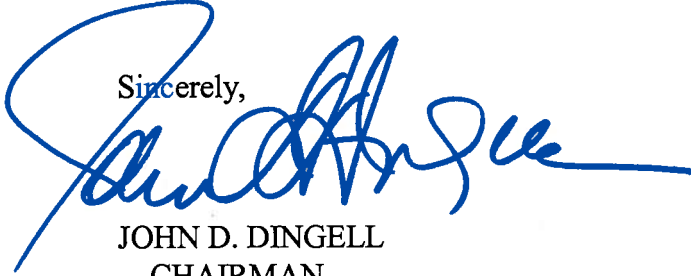
That is why I am again introducing the "Medicare for All Act." Senator Edward M. Kennedy will be re-introducing a companion bill in the Senate. This legislation would make healthcare coverage available to every American by expanding the Medicare program to those under age 65. The Medicare for All Act would promote competition and choice by allowing people to choose health insurance coverage through Medicare or any of the health benefit plans available to Members of Congress, the President of the United States, and Federal employees.

Benefits available to the under-65 population through the Medicare for All Act would parallel those currently provided under Medicare, with additional benefits due to the wider age range served by the new program. This proposed legislation builds on a program that is dear to our seniors for the benefits and services it offers, but most of all for the choice freedom it offers to see their doctor of choice. It also continues to provide assistance to low-income individuals in paying premiums and cost sharing to ensure they can access the program.

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I invite you to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation. To be an original cosponsor, please e-mail Christie Houlihan (Christie.Houlihan@mail.house.gov) of the Committee on Energy and Commerce staff by no later than 12:00 p.m on Wednesday, April 25, 2007. If you have additional questions, contact Bridgett Taylor or Purvee Kempf of the Committee on Energy and Commerce staff at extension 5-2927.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John D. Dingell", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

JOHN D. DINGELL
CHAIRMAN