

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 30, 2009

Dear Friend:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. I have heard from countless Americans struggling to afford health insurance and health professionals striving to provide care. I appreciate your perspective.

There is broad consensus among the American people on the need for affordable, high-quality health care. The rising cost of health care is the most pressing financial challenge for families and our Nation, and controlling this cost is essential to bringing down the Federal deficits we inherited. We must end unfair insurance practices that leave millions without or denied access to coverage and exposes them to extraordinary burdens. Now is the time to move forward and get health insurance reform done this year.

Since I took office, we have done more to improve health care than we have in the previous decade. I signed H.R. 2 to provide coverage for millions of children in the Children's Health Insurance Program and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to invest in computerized medical records and preventive services.

Still, more must be done to lower costs, expand coverage, and improve the quality of health care. Health insurance reform must provide more security and stability to those who have health insurance; make sure those who do not have insurance can find affordable options; and lower the cost of health care for our families, our businesses, and our government. Reform will benefit seniors by protecting and strengthening Medicare, closing the "donut-hole" gap in coverage for prescription drugs, and providing free preventive care.

Looking forward, there are tough choices to be made, and I will seek to bring employers, workers, health care providers, and patients together to create a system that delivers high-quality health care and puts the Nation on a sustainable, long-term fiscal path. To learn more about my Health Insurance Reform Plan or to share a personal story, please join me online at: www.HealthReform.gov. For further information on health care and assistance that may be available to you, you may call 1-800-FED-INFO or visit: www.USA.gov.

I share the sense of urgency that many Americans have voiced. I watched as my ailing mother struggled with stacks of insurance forms at the end of her life. This is not who we are as a Nation; together, we will fix it.

Sincerely,

