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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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March 25, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speak Boehner,

I appreciate your efforts to reject the proposal for Members of Congress to be exempt from entering into exchanges set up by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). While my family and I are not enrolled in the health care coverage provided to Member of Congress, I would never support a vote to exempt Members of Congress from the laws that they enact. As leaders and lawmakers, we must share the costs and penalties of this misguided law alongside our constituents. The only way Members should be exempt, is if the entire American people are exempt, and in order to do that we must repeal the law.

It is clear that many of the promises proposed by the President such as cost control, deficit reduction, and allowing individuals to keep their current health insurance, will not be kept. According to the House Budget Committee the PPACA increases government spending by \$1.2 trillion and increases taxes by \$569 billion. It also includes unfunded mandates that states cannot afford in the form of Medicaid expansions. The cost to Pennsylvania alone is estimated to be \$1.4 billion per year.

While we all can agree that health care reforms are necessary, there is a way to provide affordable health care coverage and increase access to care while controlling costs. I support reforms that cover those with pre-existing conditions, and allow children under the age of 26 to remain on their parents' health insurance. A patient-centered approach that will reduce health care costs and increase coverage without placing government bureaucrats between physicians and their patients is necessary. We can reduce the cost of healthcare and increase access by allowing individuals to purchase health care across state lines, giving individuals the same tax benefits as large corporations when purchasing their own insurance, and allowing small businesses to band together to lower health care costs.

While it is encouraging to see the Democrats in Congress acknowledging the failing of the 2,000 page government takeover of health care, it is discouraging that these doubts come when the costs hit a little too close to home -- in their own wallets. I am hopeful that this issue can bring Members from both sides of the aisle to the table so we can relieve all Americans from increasing health insurance premiums. I commend you for your leadership on this issue, and look forward to working with you as the 113th Congress progresses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael G. Fitzpatrick". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Michael G. Fitzpatrick
MEMBER OF CONGRESS