

# PUBLICCITIZEN

Robert Weissman, President

November 6, 2009

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

Dear Madam Speaker,

I write to follow up on recent correspondence concerning Medicare-for-All, single payer proposals in the context of the pending House floor vote on health care reform.

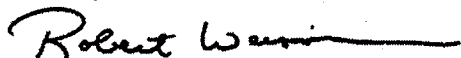
We want to reiterate the importance we attach to restoring via the manager's amendment the Kucinich amendment enabling states to adopt their own Medicare-for-All, single payer plans.

As you know, and as I referenced in my October 30 letter, there is overwhelming evidence that the Medicare-for-All, single payer approach offers unparalleled benefits in meeting the twin objectives of expanding coverage and containing costs. Only the Medicare-for-All, single payer approach offers the possibility of genuinely universal coverage, and of eliminating the travesty of people dying in the richest country on earth due to lack of coverage. Unfortunately, due to health insurance industry influence, Medicare-for-All, single payer has not been considered seriously in the Congress.

States, however, may wish to choose a different course, and to implement single payer. There is no legitimate reason why they should be denied the opportunity to adopt good public health and good fiscal policy. The Kucinich amendment aims to provide the opportunity, by waiving certain ERISA requirements that impede state single-payer action. We strongly urge you include the Kucinich amendment in the manager's amendment.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Robert Weissman  
President