

State of  
Washington  
House of  
Representatives



October 28, 2009

Congressman Rick Larsen  
U.S. House of Representatives  
108 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Larsen,

We write to express our enthusiastic support for the inclusion of a strong public option in the health care reform bill presently being debated in the House. As state legislators, we would be remiss if we did not voice our opinions on the current debate. Action by the federal government will be critical to tackling the problems we face in our communities.

We cannot continue to allow hardworking Americans to be ruined by the high cost of health care. Hundreds of our constituents are forced to declare bankruptcy every year due to unpaid medical bills. Worse yet, many more suffer while waiting for the care that they need, and some never receive it. We believe that a strong public option is critical to ensuring that health care reform truly benefits the working families that we represent.

A strong public option is a critical fallback for the many different groups that would be covered under the reform plan. In many places throughout our nation, the insurance market is not competitive. Creating better choices would allow citizens to have more options in choosing their healthcare provider, empowering them to scrutinize different insurance plans and pick the best one for themselves and for their families.

The implementation of a strong public option would create incentives for insurance companies to charge competitive rates and become more efficient. Lower prices and better efficiency would benefit everyone, including those that presently have health insurance. In addition, the competition created by a strong public option would incentivize insurance plans to focus more on primary care and preventative medicine, leading to improved health outcomes and better care.

We are proud to share the work of representing our communities with you, and we truly appreciate your hard work on our behalf. Your public meetings on health care reform helped elevate the conversation here at home and set a positive tone for this tough debate. As you consider the various proposals for reforming health insurance in this country, we urge you to support the inclusion of a strong public option.

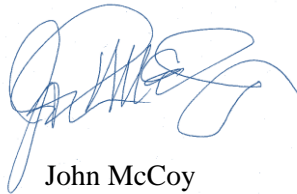
This is truly one of the most important challenges that our nation faces today, and the people of Washington are counting on you to be a strong voice for the kind of reforms that will enable us to live longer and healthier lives. Please don't hesitate to contact us, should you have any questions about how this bill will affect Washington State.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marko Liias  
State Representative  
21<sup>st</sup> Legislative District



John McCoy  
State Representative  
38<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Mary Helen Roberts  
State Representative  
21<sup>st</sup> Legislative District



Mike Sells  
State Representative  
34<sup>th</sup> Legislative District