

July 26, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

As the Senate debates the House-passed American Health Care Act (H.R. 1628), we urge you to set aside this flawed bill and work with governors, both Democrats and Republicans, on solutions that will make health care more available and affordable for every American. True, lasting reforms can only be achieved in an open, bipartisan fashion.

We agree with Senator John McCain that the Senate should “return to regular order,” working across the aisle to “provide workable solutions to problems Americans are struggling with today.”

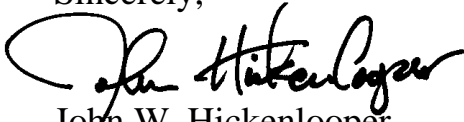
Congress should be working to make health insurance more affordable while stabilizing the health insurance market, but this bill and similar proposals won't accomplish these goals. The bill still threatens coverage for millions of hardworking, middle class Americans. The bill's Medicaid provisions shift costs to states and fail to provide the necessary resources to ensure that no one is left out, including the working poor or those suffering from mental illness or addiction. The Senate should also reject efforts to amend the bill into a "skinny repeal," which is expected to accelerate health plans leaving the individual market, increase premiums, and result in fewer Americans having access to coverage.

Instead, we ask senators to work with governors on solutions to problems we can all agree on: fixing our unstable insurance markets. Improvements should be based on a set of guiding principles, which include controlling costs and stabilizing the

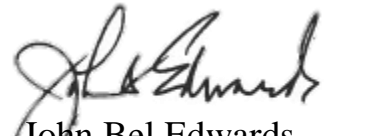
market, that will positively impact the coverage and care of millions of Americans, including many who are dealing with mental illness, chronic health problems, and drug addiction.

The next best step is for senators and governors of both parties to come together to work to improve our health care system. We stand ready to work with lawmakers in an open, bipartisan way to provide better insurance for all Americans.


Sincerely,




John W. Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado




John Bel Edwards
Governor of Louisiana




Steve Bullock
Governor of Montana



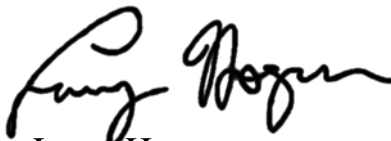
Terence R. McAuliffe
Governor of Virginia



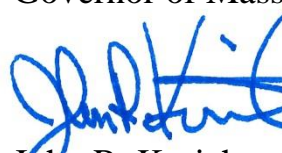
Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada



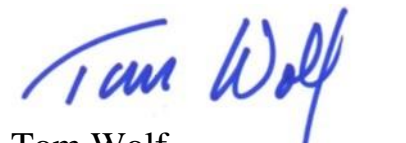
Charles D. Baker
Governor of Massachusetts




Larry Hogan
Governor of Maryland



John R. Kasich
Governor of Ohio



Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania



Phil Scott
Governor of Vermont