Summit Medical Center

TRI STAR HEALTH SYSTEM

March 17, 2010

The Honorable Jim Cooper
1536 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Jim:

On behalf of Summit Medical Center and the 900 people we employee in your district, I strongly urge you to support the comprehensive health reform legislation currently before the House.

Simply put, I strongly support this health reform legislation. While I recognize that it is not perfect, it represents the last opportunity to make a real, positive difference to tens of millions of Americans who lack health insurance. Failure to act now will only result in the uninsured crisis continuing to spiral out of control. As you know, the issue of the uninsured is not one of mere numbers on a page. These are people we see every day in our hospital who want health coverage, but simply do not have access or cannot afford it.

The status quo is unacceptable, and it is critically important for our community, and my hospital, that Congress provide health security for every American as soon as possible. The legislation before you would provide essential coverage to tens of millions of currently uninsured Americans. It would also reform the health care system in a way that would improve outcomes and reduce costs.

This legislation is critical to us and the patients we serve, and we are counting on your leadership to get this package enacted into law. By setting our health care system onto a more secure path, you have an opportunity to make a difference in so many people's lives. Please do not let this opportunity pass us by. I respectfully urge you to vote in support of the health reform bill and would be delighted to discuss this with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey T. Whitehorn
Chief Executive Officer

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