

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BOB RILEY
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

(334) 242-7100
FAX: (334) 242-0937

STATE OF ALABAMA

September 30, 2009

The Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Dear Senator Shelby:

Democrats and Republicans alike agree that our health care system is in need of reform; however, it appears the proposal you will likely be called to vote on has serious flaws that will have a dire budgetary impact on Alabama. As governor of our state, I am writing to express a specific concern I have about this proposal.

The Senate and House of Representatives are considering a bill that includes a major expansion of Medicaid and an increase in costs to the states. Our Medicaid Department has reviewed the cost of expanding Medicaid to 150% Federal Poverty Level and determined that it would cost state and federal taxpayers an additional \$1.2 billion per year to cover this mandate alone. Unlike the federal government, our state actually has to balance its budget. Given the effects of the current economic condition on our budgets, any additional costs will overwhelm our resources. Expecting states in the current economic climate to provide additional funding for federal mandates is not reasonable or even practical.

Instead of raising taxes, imposing mandates and charging penalties on small businesses, Congress and the White House may want to consider an approach we have begun to take in Alabama. Small businesses, those with 24 or fewer employees, can now deduct 150% of the money they spend on health insurance premiums from their state taxes, and their employees earning up to \$50,000/year can do the same.

Rather than increasing the size and cost of government by putting more people on Medicaid, and thereby making more citizens dependent on government as Washington appears ready to do, Alabama is trying to reduce the burden of health care costs for the overwhelming majority of its employers and their employees. I believe our state can be looked to as a model for other states.

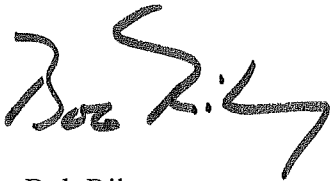
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Not only is health care less expensive in Alabama than just about anywhere else in the country, we are also an open market for insurers. More than 300 companies are licensed to sell health care insurance in our state. We encourage competition and welcome insurers to help in the effort to drive down costs.

We, as a nation, must address the problems of our existing health care system, but simply unloading them on the states will not work. I thank you for your interest in this very important matter and look forward to working with you to find common sense ways to reform our health care system.

Sincerely,

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Bob Riley
Governor of Alabama

BR/ps/bk

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September 30, 2009

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
335 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Dear Senator Sessions:

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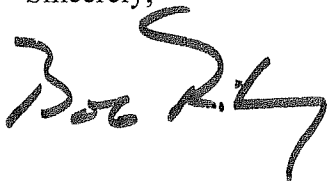
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STATE OF ALABAMA

September 30, 2009

The Honorable Mike Rogers
U.S. House of Representatives
Alabama - 3rd District
514 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0001

Dear Congressman Rogers:

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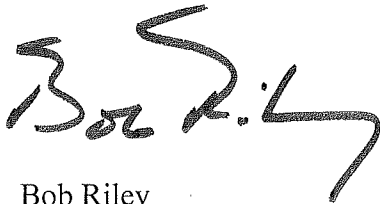
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MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

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STATE OF ALABAMA

September 30, 2009

The Honorable R. Parker Griffith, M.D.
U. S. House of Representatives
417 Cannon Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0001

Dear Congressman Griffith:

Democrats and Republicans alike agree that our health care system is in need of reform; however, it appears the proposal you will likely be called to vote on has serious flaws that will have a dire budgetary impact on Alabama. As governor of our state, I am writing to express a specific concern I have about this proposal.

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September 30, 2009
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MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

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STATE OF ALABAMA

September 30, 2009

The Honorable Artur G. Davis
United States House of Representatives
Alabama - 7th District
208 Cannon House Office Building
Suite 400-B
Washington, DC 20515-0107

Dear Congressman Davis:

Democrats and Republicans alike agree that our health care system is in need of reform; however, it appears the proposal you will likely be called to vote on has serious flaws that will have a dire budgetary impact on Alabama. As governor of our state, I am writing to express a specific concern I have about this proposal.

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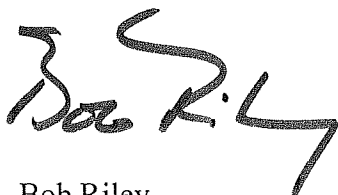
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Bob Riley
Governor of Alabama

BR/ps/bk

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MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

(334) 242-7100
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STATE OF ALABAMA

September 30, 2009

The Honorable Bobby N. Bright
U. S. House of Representatives
1205 Longworth Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bright:

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Governor of Alabama

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MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

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STATE OF ALABAMA

September 30, 2009

The Honorable Jo Bonner
United States House of Representatives
Alabama - 1st District
2236 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0001

Dear Congressman Bonner:

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Bob Riley
Governor of Alabama

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GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

(334) 242-7100
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STATE OF ALABAMA

September 30, 2009

The Honorable Spencer Bachus
United States House of Representatives
Alabama - 6th District
442 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0001

Dear Congressman Bachus:

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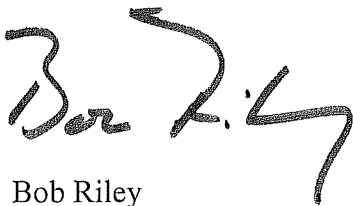
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STATE OF ALABAMA

September 30, 2009

The Honorable Robert B. Aderholt
United States House of Representatives
Alabama - 4th District
1433 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515-0001

Dear Congressman Aderholt:

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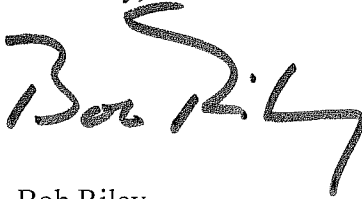
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