

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 30, 2018

The Honorable Herbert H. Slatery III
Office of the Tennessee Attorney General
P.O. Box 20207
Nashville, TN 37202-0207

Dear Attorney General Slatery:

President Trump recently tweeted, "All Republicans support people with pre-existing conditions, and if they don't, they will after I speak to them. I am in total support." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said, "There's nobody in the Senate that I'm familiar with who is not in favor of coverage of preexisting conditions."ⁱ President Trump and Leader McConnell are clearly responding to the national sentiment that recognizes the importance of these protections. According to a recent Kaiser Family Foundation poll, 75 percent of Americans say it is very important to prevent insurance companies from denying coverage based on a person's medical history.ⁱⁱ

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, as many as 133 million Americans under the age of 65 have a pre-existing health condition that would lead to a denial of insurance coverage, or coverage only at an exorbitant price.ⁱⁱⁱ Allowing discrimination based on pre-existing conditions will be devastating to those living with chronic health challenges like asthma, diabetes, or cancer, and drive up costs for working families, small businesses, and entrepreneurs. Given that national Republican leadership is claiming to defend pre-existing conditions protections, we expect that you will immediately drop your lawsuit which, if successful, would nullify these protections.^{iv}

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Steve Cohen
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Nanette Diaz Barragan
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Mike Quigley
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



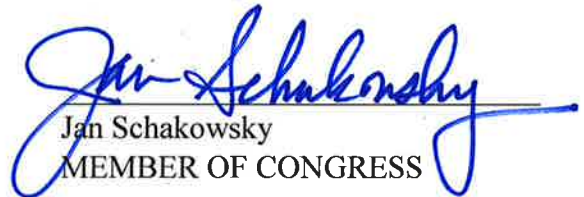
Grace F. Napolitano
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



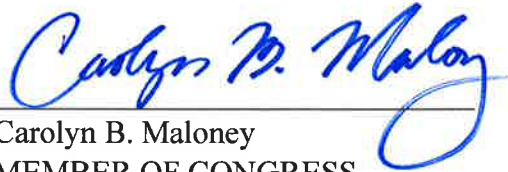
Judy Chu
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José E. Serrano
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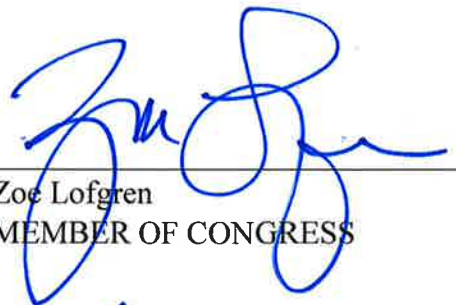
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Carolyn B. Maloney
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Betty McCollum
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Zoe Lofgren
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Scott H. Peters
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



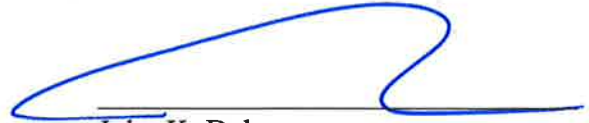
Gerald E. Connolly
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



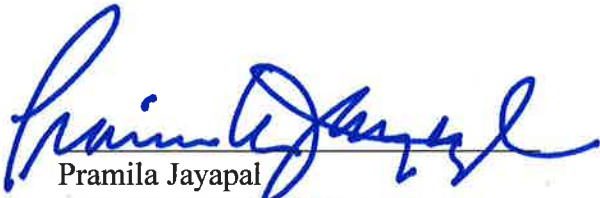
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Pramila Jayapal
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.

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ⁱ https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-health-202/2018/10/19/the-health-202-trump-says-gop-wants-to-protect-preexisting-conditions-but-a-republican-lawsuit-would-eliminate-them-if-successful/5bc8b7a71b326b7c8a8d1a68/?utm_term=.06ad7eddf4a4

ⁱⁱ <https://www.kff.org/health-costs/press-release/poll-acas-pre-existing-condition-protections-remain-popular-with-public/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/255396/Pre-ExistingConditions.pdf>

^{iv} <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/07/us/politics/trump-affordable-care-act.html?module=inline;>
[https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2018/06/07/trump-administration-not-defend-affordable-care-act/683517002/;](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2018/06/07/trump-administration-not-defend-affordable-care-act/683517002/) https://www.justsecurity.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/ACA.Azar_filing.pdf