

Name of member of Congress

Address of member of Congress

Date

Dear Senator X/Representative Y,

As a constituent, put your specialty here, and member of the National Physicians Alliance, I join with 450,000 other physicians to urge you to support HR 3200, the Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009/insert name of senate bill. My patients urgently need your help. The cost of health insurance for a family of four is greater than the income of a minimum-wage earner. Families are unable to afford coverage, small businesses are dropping employee plans, and patients are forgoing needed care. Fifteen to seventeen percent of our population is uninsured, and those who have health insurance risk losing it if they fall ill. What a disaster. The time for health care reform is now, this year.

Insert personal story (few sentences) regarding your experience as a patient or a physician that demonstrates the negative impact of not instituting change.

HR 3200, the Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009/insert name of senate bill will mend our broken system. It will expand coverage to millions of uninsured Americans who now rely on emergency rooms for all medical care. It will prioritize preventive care and chronic disease management. Clearly, it is more cost effective to provide a diabetic patient with education and maintenance medications than to pay for late stage complications of the disease. It is also the right thing to do.

Importantly, reform will provide crucial regulation of the private health insurance industry. Insurance companies will no longer be able to drop coverage for those who fall ill or deny coverage based on pre-existing conditions. More than half of all bankruptcies are related to medical bills, and of those who file for bankruptcy, 75% had health insurance at the onset of illness. Let's make health insurance a true insurance, providing protection against the unexpected. We must demand that insurance companies fulfill their purpose and provide coverage when it is needed most.

Beyond regulation of private industry, we must also create a strong public health insurance option to ensure affordable, steadfast coverage, and to force private insurers to compete on the grounds of cost-effective, high-quality care. As in other industries where the private and public systems compete (such as colleges and universities, book stores and libraries, banks and credit unions, and postal and parcel services), so too will insurance companies find a way to compete on this level playing field.

In closing, health care costs will spiral upward until we cover everyone, encourage high-quality care, and focus on health outcomes. On behalf of my patients, I urge you to support proposals to reform our health care system so that we can provide affordable, sustainable health care for all Americans. Thank you for your consideration on this issue.

Sincerely,

Sign name, title, and position here, include your contact information