

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 22, 2009

The Honorable Bob Filner
Chairman
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Buyer
Ranking Member
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Filner and Ranking Member Buyer:

As we continue to put together health reform legislation to ensure every American has access to quality affordable health care, we want to be very clear about our intentions with respect to veterans.

Veterans have provided an invaluable service to our country and recognizing the importance of that service, Congress will ensure that the health care they receive is of the highest quality and that they are able to fulfill any individual responsibility requirements with such coverage.

It is our intention that enrollment in veterans health care pursuant to chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code is acceptable coverage without additional caveats or requirements and that veterans and their dependents have the ability to get additional healthcare coverage through the health insurance exchange established by H.R. 3200 if they so choose. This will ensure that with respect to H.R. 3200, veterans of this country meet their obligations for obtaining health insurance under the tax code, and have the further option to access additional coverage for themselves and their families.

We commit to you, Chairman Filner and Ranking member Buyer, and all veterans, to clarify the legislative language in H.R. 3200 to reflect the above assurances as the reported bills

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from the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Education and Labor are merged, sent to the Committee on Rules and eventually the House floor for consideration.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with you and other members on each of the committees interested in these issues to put together a health reform bill that fulfills this country's commitment to veterans.

Respectfully,



Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Energy
and Commerce



Charles B. Rangel
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means



George Miller
Chairman
Committee on
Education and Labor

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Dave Camp
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable John Kline
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Labor