U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce

November 3, 2009

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
House Democratic Majority Leader
H-107, The Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Hoyer:

On behalf of the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce and our over 500,000 members (three-quarters of whom are small business owners), I am writing to express our support for HR 3962, the "Affordable Health Care for America Act of 2009" and urge swift passage of this important legislation. After months of discussion, committee work, and leadership within Congress, we are pleased to see the strength of this legislation and know that the reform of America's healthcare system will have a profound and positive impact on the lives of many women, and the economic opportunities of millions of small business owners.

Our members have been very concerned that healthcare reform provide women and small business owners with real competitive choices and flexibility, affordability, simplification, guaranteed coverage, prohibition of pre-existing conditions and that reform should include a both Health Insurance Exchanges and a robust government lead public plan to take on the insurance carriers, provide vigorous competition and bring down the cost of coverage. We are pleased that H.R. 3962 includes the key elements our members want and need.

We are all stakeholders in the reform of our healthcare system. Working together through shared responsibility we will all achieve positive outcomes that will serve to reinvigorate small businesses and provide protection, stability and quality life for all Americans. Women-owned firms are generally smaller than male-owned firms. Consequently, we appreciate the flexibility within H.R. 3962 giving employers the choice to offer coverage or make contributions towards coverage, and the inclusion of important tax credits to help smaller businesses offset these expenses.

During this historic time of challenge and opportunity, our members call upon you to lead with passion, vision and a commitment to the individuals you serve. The U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce is proud to offer our support of H.R. 3962, the "Affordable Health Care for America Act of 2009," and call upon Congress and the Administration to enact comprehensive healthcare reform this year.

Sincerely,

Margot Dorfman, CEO
U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce

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