September 19, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

As you continue to consider changes to the American health care system, we ask you not to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson amendment and renew support for bipartisan efforts to make health care more available and affordable for all Americans. Only open, bipartisan approaches can achieve true, lasting reforms.

Chairman Lamar Alexander and Ranking Member Patty Murray have held bipartisan hearings in the Senate’s Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, and have negotiated in good faith to stabilize the individual market. At the committee’s recent hearing with Governors, there was broad bipartisan agreement about many of the initial steps that need to be taken to make individual health insurance more stable and affordable. We are hopeful that the HELP committee, through an open process, can develop bipartisan legislation and we believe their efforts deserve support.

We ask you to support bipartisan efforts to bring stability and affordability to our insurance markets. Legislation should receive consideration under regular order, including hearings in health committees and input from the appropriate health-related parties. Improvements to our health insurance markets should control costs, stabilize the market, and positively impact coverage and care of millions of Americans, including many who are dealing with mental illness, chronic health problems, and drug addiction.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to improve the American health care system.

Sincerely,

John Hickenlooper  
Governor  
State of Colorado

John Kasich  
Governor  
State of Ohio

Bill Walker  
Governor  
State of Alaska

Steve Bullock  
Governor  
State of Montana
Tom Wolf  
Governor  
State of Pennsylvania

Terence R. McAuliffe  
Governor  
State of Virginia

John Bel Edwards  
Governor  
State of Louisiana

Brian Sandoval  
Governor  
State of Nevada

Charles D. Baker  
Governor  
State of Massachusetts

Phil Scott  
Governor  
State of Vermont