

TO PRESIDENT-ELECT OBAMA: YOU'RE READY TO LEAD AND WE'RE READY TO HELP.

As leaders of organizations representing well over 50 million American consumers, workers, CEOs of the nation's largest companies and small business owners, we have joined together to form **Divided We Fail**, an effort to break the partisan gridlock **to improve health care and long-term financial security for all Americans**. We are supported by nearly 100 other organizations, representing a diverse spectrum of interests, that share our commitment.

Because of our belief that bipartisan health care reform is critical to a strong economy, personal financial security and long-term fiscal stability, we are writing to urge you to commit to taking steps early in your administration to move health care reform forward. We represent important and powerful constituencies that can help advance the pillars of quality, access and affordability in health care reform. If you will commit to taking action on this critical issue early in your administration, we will commit to engaging our members by hosting a health care reform summit, working with you to develop a proposal as part of your agenda for the first 100 days and educating our members about the challenges and trade-offs reform entails.

Over the past 18 months, we have worked together to engage Congress, other organizations and businesses, our members, the public and the media on the urgent need for reform. We have secured pledges or letters from 366 members of Congress who have committed to put aside gridlock and take action on health care and financial security; we have secured pledges from over one million American voters who identify bipartisan action on these issues as a top domestic priority; we have hosted issue forums on health care and financial security in every state; invested tens of millions of dollars on national TV, radio and print advertising; hosted multiple national issue forums and briefings on Capitol Hill; and jointly endorsed legislative solutions on wellness and prevention, health I.T. and transparency of health data.

Our nation faces unprecedented economic uncertainty, and you, as our next President, will be working to get our economy back on track. Addressing skyrocketing health care costs is a critical component of stabilizing household, national and global economies. We cannot afford to delay action on identifying and implementing solutions to the health care crisis. Such inaction undermines the economic security of our families; limits the productivity of our workforce; stagnates job creation and wage growth; and threatens to crowd out investments in energy, education and infrastructure.

We stand ready to support you in a national effort to make access to quality, affordable health care a reality for all Americans. This foundation includes a focus on prevention and chronic care, gives patients more tools to manage their health and manage their costs and builds a more sustainable health care system that consistently delivers value to all of us, which strengthens us as a nation.

While we are proud of our efforts to focus attention on the need for health and financial security, there is no question that we need your leadership to achieve these national goals. Therefore, once again, we respectfully request that you commit to making health care reform a priority for the first 100 days of your administration and stand ready and willing to help you in this effort. We pledge our support for a reform effort that is sustained, constructive and committed to results for all Americans and look forward to working with you and your administration.

Sincerely,



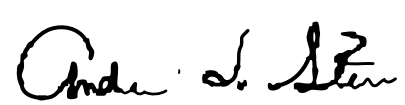
Bill Novelli
CEO, AARP



John Castellani
President, Business Roundtable



Todd Stottlemeyer
President, NFIB



Andy Stern
President, SEIU

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