



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



**Mennonite  
Central  
Committee**  
Washington Office



June 16, 2009

Dear Member of Congress:

As denominations and religious organizations composed of millions of people of faith across this country, we believe that access to quality, affordable health care should not depend upon where a person works, how much a family earns, or where a person lives. Instead, every person, created in the image and likeness of God, should have access to the things necessary to sustain life and reach his or her God-given potential, including affordable, quality health care.

Unfortunately, health care in the United States suffers from a prolonged crisis. Rising health care costs leave a growing number of people without adequate health care, including the nearly 50 million people who are uninsured. The availability of health care resources is often based on ability to pay rather than need. Finding access to quality health care services is difficult for many. The costs of health care threaten the financial health of millions of individuals and families and the long-term financial stability of our nation.

Therefore, with one voice we urge all our leaders, regardless of political party or philosophy, to join in the commitment and conversation to achieve meaningful, comprehensive health care reform this year. These next few months might represent the best chance for health care reform in a generation. Perhaps now more than ever, a wide majority of the public and most policy makers and major stakeholders share the sincere belief that fundamental and comprehensive reform of the nation's health care system is essential and possible.

Enclosed you will find additional materials about health care reform specific to our respective organizations. We look forward to future discussion as we work with you toward access to quality, affordable health care for all people.

Sincerely,

The Episcopal Church  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Mennonite Central Committee Washington Office  
The National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.  
National Council of Churches Health Care Task Force  
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society