

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 14, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

We write to urge you to include a failsafe mechanism in the final version of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (hereinafter, “the Act”) so that Congress has the tools to keep costs under control should the current savings estimates fail to materialize.

We are extremely pleased that the Act makes significant progress in substantially reducing many of the costs embedded in our health care system. The disturbing increase in health care costs has burdened too many working families and small businesses. At the same time, the rate at which health care costs are increasing will further undermine the long-term fiscal health of our government’s balance sheets. Given these challenges, it is incredibly important that the Act fulfills its projected cost savings.

We therefore request that the Act contain a failsafe mechanism that enables Congress to re-assess its projected cost savings in the future. If the estimated savings do not materialize, the Act should provide either a “fast-track” mechanism or modified reconciliation process so that Congress has the tools to bring its actual savings back in line with its original savings estimates. The process should be tailored in a way that enables Congress to address any savings shortfall expeditiously and in the most non-partisan manner possible. It should also be conducted with an eye towards maintaining affordability and quality.

By incorporating a failsafe mechanism into the Act, we can strengthen our commitment to the American people that health care reform will reduce our debt and place our country on a sounder financial footing. It will also ensure that we are, in fact, bending the cost curve and creating a truly sustainable benefit for future generations of Americans.

We hope to work with you in the coming weeks to ensure that such a failsafe mechanism is incorporated into the Act.

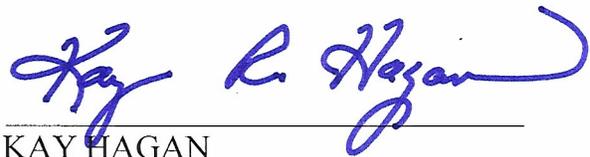
Please do not hesitate to follow up with us if you have any questions regarding the foregoing.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL F. BENNET
United States Senator



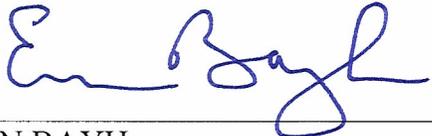
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