

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 3, 2017

The Honorable Donald Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

Last week, Democrats told you that we are willing to work with you to improve the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and to help advance bipartisan work to improve the cost of coverage for families, so long as your administration ends its efforts to repeal, dismantle or further undermine the critical benefits provided in the law. We remain concerned that your Administration has still not provided certainty to insurers and consumers that you will protect the cost-sharing subsidies provided under the law.

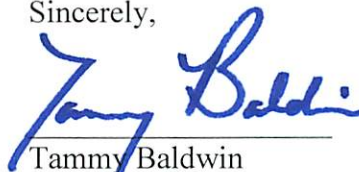
In January, many of us called on you to take action to protect the cost-sharing subsidies the ACA currently provides families to help reduce deductibles and out of pocket health care costs. Yet, your Administration and Congressional Republicans have made no effort to halt the lawsuit *House v. Price* that would take away these vital cost-sharing subsidies from the more than 6 million Americans who rely on them today. Instead, you and House Republicans further delayed action on this lawsuit – prolonging uncertainty for consumers and insurers - until May 22, 2017.

Failing to take immediate action to oppose the lawsuit or direct House Republicans to forgo this effort will increase instability in the insurance market, as insurers may choose not to participate in the marketplace in 2018. Indeed, at a Senate hearing in February, the President of America's Health Insurance Plans said, “[I]nsurance [companies] may not stay in the market because they understand these people have to have this assistance... it is very important to the stability of the individual market.”¹ Most importantly, if your Administration stops these payments, it would immediately expose our families to higher insurance costs and could force them to forgo needed care.

As we have said, we stand ready to work on improvements to the law that would reduce costs for individuals and improve the stability of the market. But, we cannot work together on commonsense reforms without a strong commitment from your Administration to do no further harm and to halt efforts that have already begun to undermine access to affordable coverage.

We urge you, again, to take action to protect and continue this vital financial assistance for our constituents and all of the health benefits that our families rely on today.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

¹ <https://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/obamacare-emergency-stabilizing-the-individual-health-insurance-market>



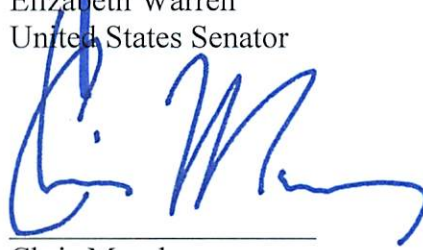
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Chris Murphy
United States Senator

CC: Secretary Thomas E. Price, Department of Health and Human Services
Speaker Paul Ryan, U.S. House of Representatives