

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 10, 2017

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
United States Capitol Building, S-230
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell:

In preparation for the July work period, we urge you to focus on immediately advancing policies to provide stability and certainty to the health insurance markets.

We appreciate your recent comments about ensuring stability for the private health insurance markets.

We believe it is important for the Senate to focus on common sense reforms to make the health care system more affordable and workable for American families, including guaranteeing cost-sharing reduction payments, creating a permanent reinsurance program, addressing areas in the country without insurers, and easing the current cliff on cost-sharing subsidies. Such reforms would have an immediate effect on stabilizing the market while lowering premiums. Legislation has already been introduced to address a number of these areas which could be taken up immediately, including:

- Senator Shaheen's S.1462, The Marketplace Certainty Act, which would ensure cost-sharing reduction payments are made in order to help stabilize the marketplaces, giving the program permanent certainty for more middle-class families;
- Senators Carper, Kaine, Nelson and Shaheen's S. 1354, the Individual Health Insurance Marketplace Improvement Act, which would create a permanent reinsurance program to stabilize the market and bring down premiums;
- Senator McCaskill's S. 1201, the Health Care Options for All Act, which would establish a mechanism to ensure that people that find themselves in a county without an insurer offering coverage will still have an option to access health insurance.
- Senator Heitkamp's proposal to help more families afford health insurance in the individual market by smoothing the "subsidy cliff" for people who earn even nominal sums over 400 federal poverty level.

We stand ready to work on these and other reforms to the current system and urge you to join us in advancing measures that would have an immediate impact on improving the health care system for American families.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Dick Durbin
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator