

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2012

Dear Governor :

We are writing to ask you to stand with hard-working Americans by publicly affirming that you intend to expand your Medicaid program, which will protect struggling Americans from health risks and financial uncertainty. Since the Supreme Court's ruling on the Affordable Care Act several governors have stated they will not implement the law by expanding Medicaid in their states. We have serious concerns that governors will refuse the Medicaid expansion for misguided political reasons and will prevent more than 17 million Americans who need coverage from receiving increased access to health care.

The Medicaid expansion provides high-quality health care coverage for individuals earning less than \$15,000 a year. Once the expansion takes place millions of Americans will have access to a family doctor and preventive care, which cost far less than emergency or catastrophic medical care. Without the expansion, hospitals and doctors will continue to incur the high costs of caring for the uninsured, resulting in shifted costs that make coverage less affordable for those with insurance.

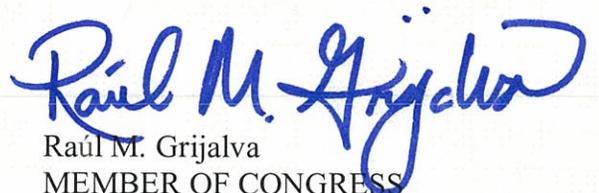
The federal government currently provides states 57% of their Medicaid funds on average and all 50 states have chosen to participate. Under the Affordable Care Act, the federal government will provide *100 percent* of the expansion funds for the first three years and 90 percent of the funds after 2020. States that currently have the lowest Medicaid coverage levels, like Alabama and Texas, stand to benefit most from federal payments to expand coverage. What's more, states that reject Medicaid expansion will lose out on an opportunity to create jobs in the health care sector.

Each day children and adults contract minor illnesses that go untreated and become major ones—or are diagnosed with major illnesses that become tragic. Health care needs are immediate and families should not have to postpone treatment until after an election. We ask that you refuse to play politics with people's health and publicly support expanding health care access to the thousands of people in your state who need it today.

Sincerely,



Keith M. Ellison
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Raúl M. Grijalva
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jim M^{rs} Parrott

Steve Cohen

John W. Ober

Gary Sam

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