



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 29, 2018

Rita Luthra, M.D.
Longmeadow, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Luthra,

Thank you for taking the time to express your views regarding healthcare policy.

Healthcare is a large and complex part of the economy that affects every person and family in America. There are significant challenges in healthcare markets, including reduced competition and rising costs that threaten both family and government budgets. Obamacare has exacerbated these challenges, causing healthcare premiums for individuals and small businesses to drastically increase while choices dwindle. In 2018, more than half of the counties in the country will have just a single insurer from which to buy a plan on Obamacare's exchanges, and average premiums will increase by 25 percent for a second consecutive year. That is why we must repeal and replace Obamacare with reforms that expand choice, increase access, lower costs, and at the same time, encourage quality healthcare and innovation.

Since my first day as President, we have been working to save Americans from Obamacare's failures. On my first day in office, I signed an Executive Order to minimize Obamacare's regulatory burdens and to give states greater flexibility and authority to create a more open healthcare market. And I have worked ever since with Congress to enact permanent reforms that will finally address the needs of our healthcare system.

On October 12, 2017, I signed another Executive Order to expand alternatives to Obamacare plans and to increase competition in order to bring down costs for consumers. The Departments of the Treasury, Labor, and Health and Human Services are acting in response to this order. In the coming months, millions of Americans will have a broader range of affordable coverage options and have greater control over how to finance their healthcare needs.

My Administration will continue to work with Congress to pass legislation that replaces Obamacare with a system that takes the power out of Washington and returns it to the States. This replacement will ensure that Americans with pre-existing conditions have access to coverage. Additionally, the legislation will provide a stable transition for those currently enrolled in Obamacare's health exchanges and Medicaid expansion.

Thank you again for your suggestions. Please visit www.whitehouse.gov to read more about my Executive Order to expand access to more affordable healthcare options. As President, I am committed to providing Americans with more affordable health insurance, access to more choices, and quality care.

Sincerely,

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WASHINGTON, DC 20500

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