

United States Senate

October 26, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

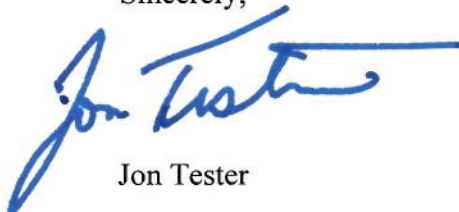
I write today in support of the *Bipartisan Health Care Stabilization Act* crafted by our colleagues Senators Alexander and Murray. Like many of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I met with and encouraged fellow Senators to put aside their differences and strike a deal that will help lower health care costs. I am proud to stand with the majority of the Senate and thousands of Montanans in support of this common sense legislation, and I respectfully urge you to work towards its passage as soon as possible.

This bipartisan compromise will lower costs for our constituents and bring urgently needed certainty to health insurance markets, while giving greater flexibility to the states. The President's recent elimination of cost-sharing reduction payments hurts many Americans, particularly those who already struggle to make ends meet. In the wake of the President's decision, we have already seen insurance providers request double-digit premium increases that will hammer the pocketbooks of hard-working families. We must act quickly to make sure that the certainty provided by the *Bipartisan Health Care Stabilization Act* will come in time to lower costs in 2018, since open enrollment for 2018 insurance plans begins in just a few short days.

By passing this legislation, we have an opportunity to show the American people that Congress can still be responsive to their needs. In my numerous face-to-face meetings with Montanans about health care, they have told me time and again that they want us to put aside political differences and lower health care costs. They deserve no less, and I look forward to working with Republicans, Democrats, and Independents to pass this legislation as soon as possible.

I stand ready to work with you to accomplish this goal. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester