

United States Senate

August 10, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
525 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

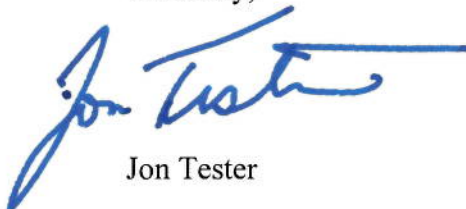
I write regarding the need for an open, bipartisan conversation about improving the affordability and accessibility of health care for Montanans and all Americans. I greatly appreciate your willingness to reach across the aisle and tackle this important issue in your Committee. The people we serve demand it and deserve it.

Health care is an issue that accounts for one-sixth of our nation's economy and touches the lives of every person. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents should be working together in the light of day on something this big, and the hearings you recently announced are a positive step in this direction.

In recent months, I have traveled around Montana and held numerous face-to-face listening sessions and town halls specifically to hear concerns about health care. At every meeting, Montanans emphasized the need to lower premiums and deductibles, to get a handle on prescription drug costs, and to keep rural clinics and hospitals open and operating. As you address our country's health care needs, I am eager to share this Montana perspective with you.

We have made great strides in recent years to improve our nation's health care system, but we have a lot of work left to do. Transparency and collaboration is the right way to do it, and I applaud your willingness to work in this way. I am happy to lend my efforts to yours, and I look forward to working with you to make sure everyone can lead healthy lives.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester