

# Congressional Progressive Caucus

<http://cpc.grijalva.house.gov>

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## 80 Strong and Growing: Open to New and Different Ideas

June 5, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232  
U.S. Capitol

Dear Madame Speaker,

President Obama and you have laid out an ambitious goal to enact healthcare reform this Congress. The Congressional Progressive Caucus stands united in the call to provide high quality, affordability, and accessibility in healthcare choices for all Americans. As you are aware, the overwhelming majority of Congressional Progressive Caucus members would prefer a single-payer approach. If a single-payer plan is not enacted, we agree with President Obama that there must be a robust public health insurance option like Medicare offered alongside the private plans.

As you and the respective chairs continue to draft healthcare legislation, the Congressional Progressive Caucus submits the attached principles that must be included to ensure a public option thrives.

The Congressional Progressive Caucus believes the public plan should provide a guarantee of coverage, affordable, high-quality and accessible healthcare, and lower costs – regardless of income, health status, race, employment, or gender. We strongly oppose any conditions or triggers undermining and limiting the availability of the public option.

We look forward to our continued involvement in the process.

Sincerely,

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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Co-Chair

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Lynn Woolsey  
Co-Chair

Cc: Majority Leader Steny Hoyer  
Majority Whip James Clyburn  
House Democratic Caucus Chairman John Larson  
The Honorable Charles B. Rangel, Chair Committee of Ways and Means  
The Honorable Henry Waxman, Chair Committee on Energy and Commerce  
The Honorable George Miller, Chair Committee on Education and Labor