



**Steve Bullock**  
Governor of Montana  
Chair

**Larry Hogan**  
Governor of Maryland  
Vice Chair

May 24, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor  
and Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor  
and Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the nation's governors, we appreciate Congress's focus on lowering health care costs and prescription drug prices. We write in response to your request for recommendations from governors on actions that Congress and the Administration can take to assist in these efforts.

Over the past several decades, persistent growth in health care costs has placed significant pressure on state budgets. Given projections that they will continue to rise, accounting for 20 percent of gross domestic product by 2025, governors are focused on achieving value, pursuing strategies that lead to better health for their residents and reducing costs. Governors have been at the forefront of health care innovation that seeks to improve health outcomes, while reducing the financial burden on families, businesses, and government. But partnership with and action by Congress and the Administration is critical to fully realizing a path to a more sustainable health system.

We urge Congress to take into serious consideration these bipartisan recommendations that will build a more efficient health care system that will improve the health of our nation and look forward to working with you in the coming weeks and months to advance bills into law that align with these recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Brown".

Governor Kate Brown  
Chair  
Health and Human Services

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlie Baker".

Governor Charlie Baker  
Vice Chair  
Health and Human Services

Cc:

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, U.S. Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Chuck Schumer, U.S. Senate Minority Leader

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, U.S. House of Representatives Minority Leader

Chairman and Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance

Chairman and Ranking Member of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee

Chairman and Ranking Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee