



COMMUNICATING for AMERICA

www.communicatingforamerica.org

Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
SD-223 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3703

Dear Senator,

Communicating for America (CA), is a rural, non-profit, non-partisan, member based organization with farmers, small business employees, and self-employed members across the United States, including Oregon. Communicating for America has been a strong advocate for individuals and families without access to affordable health care for more than three decades. From 1974 when CA testified before a congressional committee about the problems with health insurance companies canceling coverage to people after they have become seriously ill, to 1977 when CA began working on state risk pool programs for those unable to purchase insurance coverage because of preexisting medical conditions, to 1999 when CA launched and led the Health Tax Deduction Alliance, a coalition of 33 national organizations working to establish a 100 percent tax deduction for health insurance premiums for the self-employed, through today, CA has been fighting for quality, affordable health insurance that is accessible to all Americans for more than 30 years.

Communicating for America supports the following provisions of Senate Bill 391, The Healthy Americans Act:

- CA supports replacing the current income tax exclusion on employer sponsored health insurance with a standard health care deduction, and a system of refundable tax credits for low income Americans to help them pay for insurance through the private market or through non-profit, member owned health co-ops. We believe this would level the playing field for all Americans paying for their own health insurance, would increase Americans consciousness of the costs of health insurance, and would be an equitable way of paying for health reform that would ensure all Americans have access to affordable health care.
- CA supports guarantee issue of health insurance without regard to pre-existing medical conditions.
- CA supports reform efforts to provide incentives to individuals, insurers, physicians, and hospitals to focus on prevention and wellness, including incentives for primary care physicians practicing in rural America.

- CA supports the idea that healthcare reform should be paid for, and should not increase the Federal Deficit.
- CA agrees that all Americans have a shared responsibility and that all Individuals should be required to have health insurance that provides a minimum set of benefits.

Sincerely,

Wayne Nelson
CA President