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Re: Healthcare for All

Thank you for the open letter regarding your thoughts on universal healthcare and your suggestion on how best to engage the public in the legislative process. While serving in Congress, I have prioritized legislation that makes healthcare more accessible and affordable. Now, more than ever, it is important that we work across the aisle to improve our health care system and bring down costs for all Americans.

After the Affordable Care Act passed in 2010, I have seen firsthand the direct impact that this legislation has on communities and families across the Central Coast. I am committed to finding ways to improve and expand health coverage while protecting the gains we have made under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including protections for those with pre-existing conditions and expanded access to preventive care. Throughout my time in Congress, I have been a strong supporter of protecting the ACA and lowering premiums. In 2021, I voted in support of the American Rescue Plan to temporarily lower premiums by an average of 40 percent over two years. As these cuts were set to expire, I voted to pass the Inflation Reduction Act to extend these reductions to premiums through 2025.

I am also committed to strengthening and protecting Medicare programs. Medicare is critical to providing quality healthcare to millions of Americans across the nation. This is one of the many reasons why I voted for the Inflation Reduction Act in 2022, as it allows Medicare to negotiate drug prices, caps out-of-pocket costs for seniors at \$2,000 per year, and caps the cost of insulin for seniors at \$35 per month. You may be pleased to know that I am also a cosponsor of the Facilitating Nuclear Diagnostics Act of 2023 (H.R.1199). This bipartisan bill would protect Medicare beneficiaries' access to advanced diagnostic imaging procedures that identify dangerous conditions, such as heart disease and cancers, in early stages. Additionally, I cosponsored the Stop the Wait Act (H.R.883) to phase out the waiting period for disability insurance benefits and allow anyone who is uninsured or unable to afford insurance during the waiting period to receive Medicare coverage. I am also proud to cosponsor the bipartisan Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act (H.R.549) to eliminate the waiting periods for disability insurance benefits and Medicare coverage for individuals with metastatic breast cancer.

As an original cosponsor of the Medicare for All Act (H.R.3421) because I believe all Americans deserve access to quality, affordable health care, and that no American should ever go bankrupt from the cost of seeking that care. We must continue to work to ensure that health care is a human right, not a privilege. Rest assured that I will be sure to keep your input in mind as Congress continues to consider legislation on this vital topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S.O. Carbajal".

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress