

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 25, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner and Majority Leader Reid,

Since the inception of ObamaCare, I have been very vocal in my concern about the cost and quality of care associated with health care exchanges. However, I feel that it is only fair that lawmakers are beholden to the same laws as every other American. I write to you to express my strong opposition to Members of Congress exempting themselves from these exchanges, and hope that my past efforts may be of assistance to you as we begin the implementation of the health care law.

In light of this nation's serious economic difficulties, all government agencies – including Congress – have a responsibility to work together to overcome America's fiscal challenges. You may recall that, as a Member of the House Ways & Means Committee, I offered an amendment to the health care law that would have required all Members of Congress and dependents to receive health care coverage through the government-run plan. Although my amendment was defeated, a version of this same idea eventually passed into law.

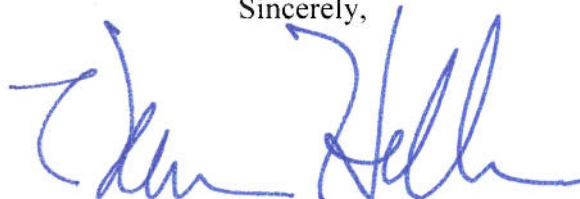
Fighting ObamaCare meant I had to threaten lawmakers with the consequences of their own legislation. In no way should these individuals remain exempt from a law which they created. While I continue to stand firmly in opposition to ObamaCare and fear the effects it will have on this nation's health care system, Members of Congress must be forced to partake in this law, just like everyone else.

In addition, I find it appalling that when ObamaCare was written, Leadership staff and Committee staff exempted themselves. If Congress is going to address Congressional staff, they should include the very staff that wrote this legislation. It is a significant reflection upon the law that these Congressional staffers exempted themselves.

With around \$1.5 billion being delegated to the Department of Health and Human Services under the President's budget in order to fund these exchanges, no one should be left out, including congressional leadership staff, committee staff, and the President of the United States.

Let me reiterate my deep concern for the implementation of the health care exchanges. I look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Sincerely,



DEAN HELLER
U.S. Senator