## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

December 7, 2017

The Honorable Kevin Brady Chairman House Committee on Ways and Means 1102 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable Orrin Hatch Chairman Senate Committee on Finance 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Brady and Chairman Hatch:

As you begin conference proceedings related to H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, we respectfully request that the final package include a repeal of the Obamacare individual mandate. Including language to repeal this harmful policy will return personal decisions about health care choices to patients, fulfilling a key promise we have made to the American people.

Until enactment of Obamacare, the federal government had never required individuals, as a condition of lawful residence in the United States, to purchase a product from a private company. Yet the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated that the individual mandate will force approximately 13 million people, who would not voluntarily choose to purchase Obamacare-compliant plans without the threat of federal penalties, to do so. This raises an important question: If Obamacare provides Americans with great health insurance, why would they have to be forced to purchase it?

Obamacare's coercive individual mandate represents perhaps the worst example of the federal government violating individual freedom and liberty – which is why we have repeatedly promised to repeal it. Repeal of the individual mandate was included in the Senate-passed bill and had earned robust support in the House. We urge you to help fulfill our promise to the American people and include this language in a final conference package.

Sincerely,

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Mark Walker Member of Congress

Sam Johnson Member of Congress

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Rob Woodall Member of Congress

Bill Flores Member of Congress

Brian Babin Member of Congress

Andy Barr Member of Congress

Rick Allen Member of Congress

Jim Banks Member of Congress

Joe Barton Member of Congress

Andy Biggs Member of Congress

Ted Budd Member of Congress

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Marsha Blackburn Member of Congress

Bradley Byrne Member of Congress

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Steve Chabot Member of Congress

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Tom Cole Member of Congress

Kevin Cramer Member of Congress

Warren Davidson Member of Congress

Ron DeSantis Member of Congress

Jeff Duncan Member of Congress

Matt Gaetz Member of Congress

Scott DesJarlais

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Trent Franks Member of Congress

Mike Gallagher Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs Member of Congress

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Paul Gosar Member of Congress

Garrett Graves Member of Congress

Bob Goodlatte Member of Congress

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Tom Graves Member of Congress

Andy Harris

Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler **/** Member of Congress

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French Hill Member of Congress

Trent Kelly Member of Congress

<u>Ateve Till</u> Steve King

Member of Congress

John Ree

Jody Hice Member of Congress

Richard Hudson

Member of Congress

Rail R. Labrado

Raul Labrador Member of Congress

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Doug LaMalfa Member of Congress

Barry Loudermilk Member of Congress

Hood

Darin LaHood Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn Member of Congress

Tom McClintock

Member of Congress

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Martha McSally Member of Congress

Luke Messer Member of Congress

Elex X. Moon

Alex Mooney Member of Congress

Ralph Norman Member of Congress

Dan Newhouse Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Scott Perry

Member of Congress

Ted Poe Member of Congress

Phil Roe M.D., Member of Congress

Francis Rooney Member of Congress

Robert Pittinger Member of Congress

Ratcliff

John Ratcliffe Member of Congress

Todd Rokita

Member of Congress

Dennis Ross Member of Congress

Rothfus

Keith Rothfus Ø Member of Congress

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Austin Scott Member of Congress

David Rouzer Member of Congress

Jason Smith Member of Congress

Lanar Juith

Lamar Smith Member of Congress

Randy Weber Member of Congress

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Tim Walberg Member of Congress

Brad Wenstrup Member of Congress

Bruce Westerman Member of Congress

Roger Williams Member of Congress

Joe Wilso

Member of Congress

Ted Yoho Member of Congress