

November 5, 2009

The Honorable John Fleming  
United States House of Representatives  
1023 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Fleming:

On behalf of the Louisiana State Medical Society I request that you vote against the Affordable Health Care for America Act (HR 3962).

Our nation's health care system must be reformed and action to reasonably and effectively address its problems can no longer be postponed. The debate and discussion on what kind of reforms should be implemented has been continuous for several months. The House of Representatives' response has been the crafting of an enormously expensive, government dominated total transformation of the system itself. The cost of health care is the primary concern of the majority of Americans. Yet what this bill does is exacerbate that problem by taking from the American pocketbook more taxes and creating a generational national debt that looms on the horizon like a mushroom cloud.

Each of us, citizen and politician, knows we can do better. We can identify and implement effective and less costly reforms that expand coverage and accessibility based on a commitment of fiscal responsibility. Reform done the right way will take an open-minded, constructive approach to develop a consensus on legislation that puts the patient in the driver's seat and does not add to the accumulating debt which threatens the future of our country.

The LSMS recognizes this is an enormous task and appreciates your efforts to represent the concerns and needs of all Louisianians at this crucial point in choosing the best course of action to strengthen and improve our health care system.

Sincerely,

Roger D. Smith, MD  
President

RDS: ghl