



March 11, 2014

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
The U.S. Capitol, Room H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
The U.S. Capitol, Room H-204
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) and the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA), we are writing to express our strong opposition to repealing or delaying the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) individual mandate as part of the Medicare physician payment reform bill.

Our members believe it is critically important to modernize the Medicare physician payment system to promote improvements in quality, value, and patient outcomes. However, we have deep concerns about packaging the Medicare physician payment bill with legislation that would sever the link between the ACA's individual mandate and its market reforms. The experience of states that attempted this in the 1990s demonstrates that removing this important linkage will result in more uninsured Americans, higher costs, and reduced choices for individuals and families. To avoid these outcomes, we are asking Congress to reject efforts to repeal or delay the individual mandate in the debate on Medicare physician payment reform.

Thank you for considering our views on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Ignagni".

Karen Ignagni
President and CEO
America's Health Insurance Plans

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott P. Serota".

Scott P. Serota
President and CEO
BlueCross BlueShield Association