

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release:  
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**State Legislators To President Obama:  
We Won't Wait for Our Health Summit Invitation**

**Washington, D.C.**— State sponsors of the nationwide effort to block a government requirement to purchase health insurance today sent a letter to President Obama decrying their exclusion from tomorrow's bipartisan health reform summit.

The letter commends the president for his efforts at bipartisanship but also says "we think you're missing a critical element in this discussion—the ideas of thousands of state legislators." The signers are the sponsors of the *Freedom of Choice in Health Care Act*, model legislation by the [American Legislative Exchange Council](http://www.alec.org) (ALEC), the nation's largest nonpartisan individual membership association of state legislators.

To date, 36 states have introduced the ALEC model to protect patients' rights to pay directly for medical care, and to prohibit the government from forcing individuals to purchase government-approved health insurance. The measure has already passed with bipartisan support in houses of the Idaho, Virginia, and Tennessee legislatures, and will appear as a ballot question before Arizona voters in November. In other states, the initiative is quickly moving through various legislative committees.

State legislators across the country continue to express concern about what effect any federal legislation will have on states' efforts to implement their own health care reforms and especially what effect a proposed individual or employer mandate will have on their citizens and small businesses.

The signers pledged to "pursue our own initiatives—not only to protect health care freedom, but to also reduce health costs; increase access to quality, affordable health insurance; and improve the quality of care," according to the letter.

The letter and additional information about ALEC's *Freedom of Choice in Health Care Act* is available online at [www.alec.org](http://www.alec.org).

AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL  
**ALEC**

February 24, 2010

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

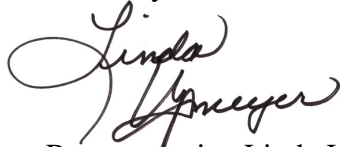
Earlier this month, we learned of your call for a bipartisan summit so that our nation can move forward in solving our health care crisis. And now tomorrow, a select group of federal lawmakers will contribute their health reform vision to the national dialogue.

However, we think you're missing a critical element in this discussion—the ideas of thousands of state legislators. We know that any federal health care legislation will eventually rely on the states to implement, manage, and fund the reform effort. Many state legislators, like us, are also concerned about the effects that a proposed individual or employer mandate will have on our citizens and small businesses. We are disappointed that state legislators have not been involved in this effort and that you would not include state legislators in tomorrow's meeting.

That's why we're moving forward with a nationwide effort to ensure that the cornerstone of any state or federal health reform is the protection of patients' rights. We are the sponsors of the *Freedom of Choice in Health Care Act*, an initiative by 36 states to protect our patients' rights to pay directly for medical care, and to prohibit the government from fining our citizens for failing to purchase government-approved health insurance. This quickly-moving measure was recently passed with bipartisan support in houses of the Virginia and Tennessee legislatures, and will be put before Arizona voters in November.

So while you discuss health reform solutions at Blair House tomorrow, we will pursue our own initiatives—not only to protect health care freedom, but to also reduce health costs; increase access to quality, affordable health insurance; and improve the quality of care. We know you share these goals, we believe that there are valuable lessons to be learned as state legislators move ahead with innovative health reform solutions, and we continue to hope that state legislators will be invited to participate as this process moves forward.

Sincerely,



Representative Linda Upmeyer  
Minority Whip, Iowa House District 12  
Chair, ALEC's HHS Task Force

Representative Mac Gipson  
Alabama House District 88

Representative Mike Kelly  
Alaska House District 7

Representative Nancy Barto  
Arizona House District 7

Representative Dan Greenberg  
Arkansas House District 31

Representative Scott Plakon  
Florida House District 37

Senator Judson Hill  
Georgia Senate District 32

Representative Jim Clark  
Idaho House District 3

Representative Cindy Noe  
Indiana House District 87

Senator Mary Pilcher-Cook  
Kansas Senate District 10

Representative Addia Wuchner  
Kentucky House District 66

Senator Alex Mooney  
Maryland Senate District 3

Delegate Christopher Shank  
Maryland House District 2B

Senator Wayne Kuipers  
Michigan Senate District 30

Representative Tom Emmer  
Minnesota House District 19B

Representative Alex Monsour  
Mississippi House District 54

Representative Tim Jones  
Missouri House District 89

Senator Roy Brown  
Montana Senate District 25

Representative Krayton Kerns  
Montana House District 58

Representative Tom McGillvray  
Montana House District 50

Representative Ken Peterson  
Montana House District 46

Senator Jim Shockley  
Montana Senate District 45

Representative Cary Smith  
Montana House District 55

Senator Bruce Tutvedt  
Montana Senate District 3

Representative Wendy Warburton  
Montana House District 34

Senator Beau McCoy  
Nebraska Senate District 39

Representative Andrew Renzullo  
New Hampshire House District 27

Representative Keith Gardner  
New Mexico House District 66

Representative Bill Sharer  
New Mexico Senate District 1

Senator Phil Berger  
North Carolina Senate District 26

Representative Blair Thoreson  
North Dakota House District 44

Representative Ron Maag  
Ohio House District 35

Representative Mike Ritze  
Oklahoma House District 80

Representative Matt Baker  
Pennsylvania House District 68

Senator Leo Blais  
Rhode Island Senate District 21

Senator Mike Rose  
South Carolina Senate District 38

Representative Phil Jensen  
South Dakota House District 33

Representative Manny Steele  
South Dakota House District 12

Representative Susan Lynn  
Tennessee House District 57

Representative Carl Wimmer  
Utah House District 52

Delegate Bob Marshall  
Virginia House District 13

Senator Jill Vogel  
Virginia Senate District 27

Representative Bill Hinkle  
Washington House District 13

Senator Val Stevens  
Washington Senate District 39

Delegate Jonathan Miller  
West Virginia Delegate District 53