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United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
BUDGET
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
FOREIGN RELATIONS

Dear Mr. Powell,

Thank you for contacting me regarding health care reform. I appreciate you taking the time to write. It is an honor to serve you in the United States Senate and I hope you will continue to write with your thoughts and ideas on moving our country forward.

On June 22, 2017, the Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) released a discussion draft, known as the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA), for the Senate's revision of the House of Representatives' plan to replace the Affordable Care Act. While I will continue to review any proposed legislation, **it remains clear that the Affordable Care Act is imploding and it is vital we bring relief to Coloradans**. The Senate needs to work together and take the time to get it right for the people of Colorado in order to produce a bill that will rescue Americans from the Affordable Care Act.

It is vital that any health care plan offers states the flexibility they need, while also ensuring stability for Colorado's sickest and most vulnerable patients. This is why we must reform our severely broken health care system. The instability of the individual health insurance market has resulted in **multiple insurers removing plans from the state health exchange for this plan year**. As a direct impact, 67% of counties in Colorado have two, or fewer, insurance carriers to choose from. This decrease in competition has had a dramatic effect on Coloradans' ability to purchase insurance and access care. In Colorado, and across the nation, **families have faced significant premium increases**. According to the Colorado Division of Insurance (DOI), the average premium in Colorado increased by 20.4% on the individual market in 2017 and there are double digit increases expected for plan year 2018 if we continue our current trajectory. **Many Americans today choose not to visit the doctor or purchase necessary medication because they simply cannot afford to do so.** This is unacceptable, particularly for individuals with preexisting conditions

As conversations around repealing the failed Affordable Care Act continue, I remain committed to replacing it with common sense reforms that control costs, **expand access to care**, and protect the doctor-patient relationship, while also ensuring a stable transition and flexibility for Medicaid populations. In the future, I will continue to carefully review any proposed legislation as we continue to look at ways to rescue Colorado from the worsening impacts of the Affordable Care Act on our health care system.

Moving forward, I will continue to support policies that will the lower cost of health care while increasing the quality of care. Again, thank you for contacting me, and do not hesitate to do so again when an issue is important to you.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner
United States Senator

Lies

False Implications that the
PPACA is the problem