

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 9, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson:

As members of the Dads Caucus, we call on you to bring members back to Washington, instead of senselessly keeping the government shutdown, and work with Democrats to immediately produce legislation that extends critical Affordable Care Act Enhanced Premium Tax Credits so that we can reopen the government. This Republican manufactured shutdown is creating a healthcare crisis for over 20 million Americans. We have heard from families in our districts who are rightfully concerned that they will soon lose access to healthcare because of your failure, thus far, to extend these vital credits. The government shutdown that is now entering its second week is doing real harm to real families, and your decision to cancel votes instead of negotiating a path forward only deepens that harm.

The Affordable Care Act Enhanced Premium Tax Credits have been a lifeline for families to access healthcare. These tax credits were created over a decade ago to help families pay their health insurance premiums. Based on a decade of success, Congress enhanced the tax credits in the American Rescue Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. These reforms led to a doubling of enrollees in health insurance offered on state-based exchanges from 11 million to 24 million people.

Because of Republican inaction, progress on affordable healthcare is at risk. Millions of Americans are now opening their mail to find that health insurance premiums are about to skyrocket. On average families will see their premiums increase by 75% because of the lapse in the enhanced tax credit. For example, a family of four making \$78,000 a year, will see their premiums double from \$260 a month to \$475 a month, an increase of over \$2,500 in a year. That is why estimates have shown 4.2 million people will drop health coverage altogether because of soaring costs. Families will soon be faced with an impossible choice of health care or housing, insulin or groceries. In one of the wealthiest nations in the world, Americans deserve better from their government.

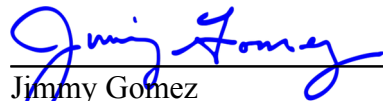
The Dads Caucus has been sounding the alarm for over a year on the expiration of the ACA Enhanced Premium Tax Credits. We have held briefings and townhalls with doctors, small business owners, and constituents, listening to how the expiration will impact them. Based on their concerns, on March 11th, we held a press conference demanding Republicans stop proceeding with their plan to give huge tax breaks for billionaires, and instead, pass legislation that extended the ACA Enhanced Premium Tax Credits and provided economic security for working families. Dads Caucus members once again led the charge during the Ways and Means markup of the so-called "Big Beautiful Bill" by offering amendments to extend these critical tax credits. Disappointingly, every single Republican voted four times against extending the credits during their markup.

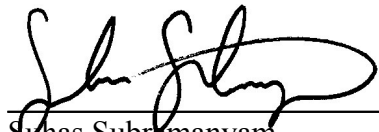
Across the country, families were already ready struggling to get by under the Trump economy. Americans can barely afford rent and mortgage payments. Grocery prices continue to skyrocket as Trump's reckless tariff prices wreak havoc on markets. And childcare continues to grow more unaffordable. But the "Big Beautiful Bill" has made a bad economic situation worse. Steep cuts to food assistance means families will struggle to get

the basics. And the \$1 trillion cut to Medicaid means 10 million people will lose access to health coverage, exacerbating the impending healthcare crisis.

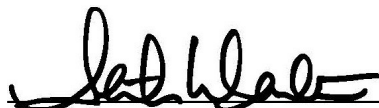
At such a critical juncture for our nation, it is unacceptable that House Republicans refuse to return to work, abdicating their responsibility to the American people. But there is still time to reverse course. We call on you to immediately bring back House Republicans to Washington, D.C., so we can begin the work to extend the Affordable Care Act Enhanced Premium Tax Credits and reopen the federal government.

Sincerely,

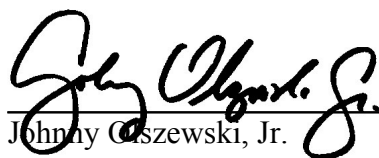

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress


Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress


Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

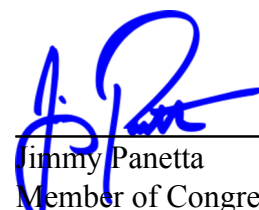

Seth Moulton
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Greg Landsman
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Johnny Oszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress


Bradley Scott Schneider
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Robert J. Menendez
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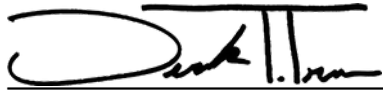

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



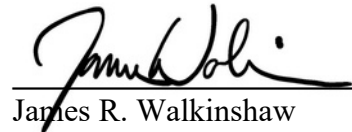
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



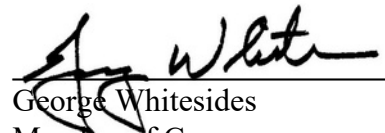
Derek T. Tran
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James R. Walkinshaw
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Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



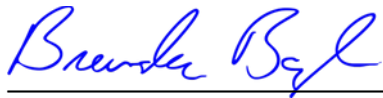
George Whitesides
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



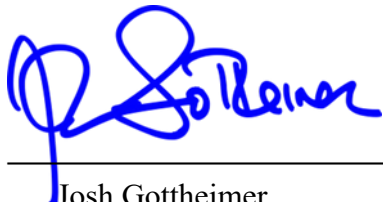
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
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Joaquin Castro
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Josh Gottheimer
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