

THE REV. CHARLES S. CURRIE, JR.  

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A MINISTER IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 30, 2009

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
2267 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Blumenauer:

Thank you for your leadership on the just unveiled "Affordable Health Care for America Act."

The United Church of Christ, with over 1.1 million Americans across the United States, including Oregon, has called for reform that includes:

- Coverage for all people
- Access regardless of ability to pay
- A full set of comprehensive benefits
- A choice of physicians and other providers
- Elimination of racial and ethnic and other health care disparities
- Waiver of pre-existing condition exclusions without age limits
- A robust public health insurance option

The House bill moves the United States closer to these goals.

Please note that I am particularly pleased to see that your provision on Advanced Care Planning is maintained in the bill. As I have said before, this provision is supported by medical professionals, seniors and their advocacy groups, and by clergy like me who, unlike critics, regularly sit at the bedside of people who are dying but have not communicated their wishes to physicians or family about how they want to be treated at the end stages of life. Your provision is morally sound, but those who have twisted your intent in this debate are at best uneducated and at worst using their positions to undermine the cause of providing care to all Americans.

If I can be of any help to you as you work to advance these critically needed health care goals please do not hesitate to be in touch at 971-322-7920 or [rev@chuckcurrie.com](mailto:rev@chuckcurrie.com).

Sincerely,



The Rev. Chuck Currie