



Oct 23, 2009

Honorable Congressman Mike Honda
1713 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Honda:

On behalf of the Ethiopian-American community, we are very grateful for your service and commitment to our cause and community. The Citizens League of Ethiopian Americans (CLEA) commends you for supporting a more inclusive, healthier world and advocating for a new health care system with fewer disparities between socioeconomic groups and for stronger community health solutions. Most of all it is imperative that every person have access to affordable, high quality healthcare in this great nation.

CLEA is an advocacy group for the constituency of Ethiopian Americans. We are a grass roots organization dedicated to providing education and information to our community to insure its inclusion in our political process. Today, the time has come for CLEA to help play a historic role in supporting and advocating for the Health care agenda proposed by President Barack Obama. Health care reform is of particular importance to Ethiopian Americans.

Many Ethiopian Americans make their living in the hospitality services and small business industries. Many jobs in these sectors fail to provide any health insurance benefits to employees and their families. As a result most of members of our community are not in a position to get preventive help and basic medical services. The lack of health care benefits has impacted the children of our community as well as our parents and the elderly. It is common for Ethiopian Americans to have shorter life expectancy due to unnecessary deaths. We also see increased exposure of illness in our younger population due to the absence of preventive care.



CLEA, as one of the representatives of the wider Ethiopian-American community, wishes to convey its strong support to the Health Care Agenda championed by President Barack Obama and advanced by your commitment.

We call upon every member of the US Congress to enact a health care reform bill that assures affordable and basic quality health care to all Americans. Congressman Honda, CLEA asks you to convey, to all of your colleagues, our desire that no family should ever face bankruptcy or death because of their inability to afford proper healthcare treatment.

Again, we thank you for your leadership on this issue and stand with you to help in any way we can to support your efforts.

Sincerely

Nebi Alemu
President

Cc: CLEA Board of Directors