

October 8, 2009

H.E. Congressman Mike Honda
1713 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Honda:

The Ethiopian Community and Cultural Center ECCC of the East Bay Area is a non-profit community based organization established in 2001 to empower Ethiopians and Ethiopian-Americans through education, advocacy, services and development of community based resources and services.

Our organization has served a great many Ethiopian community members residing in the Alameda County, especially in the city of Oakland by providing the service outlined below:

- Charitable services in such areas as counseling, emergency intervention, health accessing, translation/interpretation, health/nutrition information, Childcare, Welfare, housing, employment referral and counseling, legal referrals, education and training, computer literacy, follow up services and related areas.
- Protect the interest of the Ethiopian Community throughout the United States of America and Abroad
- Promote and develop communication and understanding among Ethiopians and Americans, between Americans and Ethiopians and all other communities
- Assist Ethiopians in their adjustment and integration into the American society
- Enhance and promote Ethiopian Culture

Today, the health care debate in the United States needs no introduction. It has been an ongoing background debate for decades and periodically comes to the fore when an administration seeks to institute reforms.

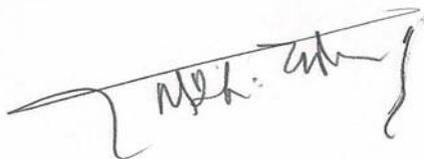
The Current president of the United States for the first time is vigorously fighting to deal head on with the health of the nation population to fix a decade long of problems deep-rooted in the bureaucracy that favors special interest groups. No other highly developed country in the world has a health care system similar to that in the United States. While the United States excels in advanced medical technology, it leaves the largest percentage of its population uninsured. Questions about how much responsibility the government has for its citizens' health care go to the core of an ongoing debate in American culture about the role of government and the responsibility of citizens for their own welfare.

We the Ethiopian community stands strong in support of the president positions to reform the health care of USA for good. With your support, we want to make sure that our voices are heard loud and clear in making this legislation pass to have an impact for a better healthy life for the many Ethiopian Americans residing in the San Francisco bay area.

We call upon you and member of the US Congress to enact a health care reform bill that assures affordable and basic quality health care to the many Americans like our community so that medical bills and expenses won't be the main topic on a family dinner table.

Congressman Honda, the community appreciates your undivided attention to the matter and wishes you the best to succeed.

Sincerely



Behailu Assefa

President

CC: Executive board members