



October 20, 2009

Dear Chairman Congressman Honda;

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

The Current President of the United States is vigorously fighting to deal head on with the health of the nation's population, and to fix long-standing problems deep-rooted in a bureaucracy that favors special interest groups. Unlike in 1993 when then-first lady Hillary Clinton tried her hand at changing the medical system, this time we believe that the reform will be realized. 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.

Presently fewer and fewer Ethiopians have health insurance, and therefore cannot afford good medical care. Particularly those ones who arrive USA within the last few years and the elderly members of Ethiopian community have either no insurance or underinsured. On top of that significant number of Ethiopians who fled Ethiopian at the time of communist regime in 1970's will be eligible for Medicare in USA within the next few years. Nowadays skyrocketing cost of health care is the major concern of Ethiopian community and we believe that now we are at historical moment and have golden opportunity to reform it. Therefore, we, the Ethiopian community, stand in strong support of the President's positions to reform the health care of the United States through bi-partisan support in both chambers in Congress. We believe that the agenda of healthcare reform transcends any political differences in the congress.

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 our nation.

We call upon you and other Members of the Congressional Ethiopia and Ethiopian American Caucus 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,

Elias Wondimu  
Founder