

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012

Douglas Elmendorf, Ph.D.  
Congressional Budget Office  
Ford House Office Building  
Second & D Streets, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20515-6925

Dear Director Elmendorf,

I would like to thank you and your team at the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) for all of the hard work and effort that went into preparing your most recent study on the health care exchanges. I also appreciate the time you took to meet with me to discuss the results.

I do not agree with the conclusions you have reached, but I respect the sincerity and professionalism with which you have conducted your analysis.

I realize the workload and resource limitations CBO operates under, and I do not make the following request lightly. But as you can see by the number of Senators that have joined me in making this request, we believe it is extremely important that the American people have this information.

In the sensitivity analysis of CBO's most recent study, CBO limited the maximum number of employees who might lose their employer sponsored care to 20 million. For a number of reasons, CBO did not find the McKinsey & Co. study that showed 30% to 50% of employers plan to drop coverage credible.

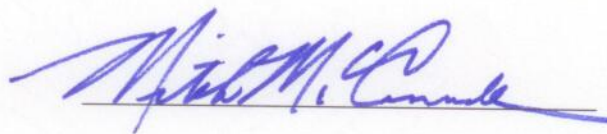
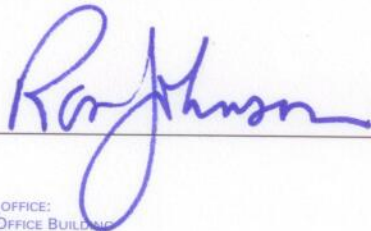
But what if McKinsey & Co is right and CBO is wrong? Before the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is fully implemented, the American people deserve to know the full range of its potential costs and consequences.

As a result, we are asking CBO to provide us with an analysis of the budgetary effects of 30%, 50%, and finally 100% of Americans losing their employer sponsored care. In other words, what would it cost the federal government if 48 million, 80 million, or 160 million Americans were forced to access health care through the exchanges.

We would be happy to work with CBO to specify the report parameters and minimize the disruption to the other demands for your services.

I would appreciate an initial response to these questions no later than Wednesday, April 11, 2012.

Sincerely,



Don Coats

Jim DeMint

John Thune

Jeff Sessions

Tom Cotton

Paul Ryan

Sally Clark

Rand Paul

John Boozman

John Cornyn

Kelly Ayotte

Liz Cheney

John Long

Boe Corbett

Conan Alexander

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Chuck Grassley

Michael B. Enzi

Susan Collins

Robert Bennett

Jerry Moran

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