January 6, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of ALEC’s legislative members, we are writing to express our support of your efforts to repeal the costly Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace the legislation with affordable, sustainable, patient-centered, and market-driven health policy reforms.

The American Legislative Exchange Council is the nation’s largest nonpartisan individual membership association of state legislators, with nearly 2,000 legislator members across the country and over 100 alumni members in Congress.

As a former state legislative and ALEC alumni, you know the tremendous financial burden that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act places on the states, including:

- A budget-busting Medicaid expansion, coupled with a “maintenance of effort” requirement, which will force states to slash other funding priorities, like education or law enforcement; and
- An individual mandate that requires massive government subsidies to purchase the required health insurance, and that will also raise health insurance premiums and push more Americans onto government healthcare programs funded by the states; and
- Job-killing employer mandates that will cripple small businesses and postpone economic recovery, and that will require states themselves to pay federal penalties if they don’t provide federally-dictated health insurance to state workers; and
- A federal takeover of health insurance regulation, which has been traditionally been the purview of states, and will require states to expend limited state resources to comply with the new law.

With a stagnant economy, declining tax revenues, and looming budget cuts in other areas, the states simply cannot afford the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act—and we believe that the only alternative is to repeal this costly legislation, and to replace it with reforms that protect individual rights and allow states to implement innovative policies that are responsive to local needs and budgets.

Thank you for your leadership in working to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. ALEC legislators look forward to working with you to advance our mutual goals of affordable, sustainable, patient-centered, and market-driven health reform.

Sincerely,

Representative Linda Upmeyer
Chair, ALEC’s Health Task Force
Majority Leader, Iowa House of Representatives

Representative Noble Ellington
2011 ALEC National Chairman
District 20, Louisiana House of Representatives