September 14, 2009

The Honorable Max Baucus
Senate Committee on Finance
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Senate Committee on Finance
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Baucus and Grassley:

On behalf of the more than 60 members of the Health Care Freedom Coalition and other allies who in turn represent millions of grassroots activists, doctors, health care providers, and concerned citizens, we write to oppose the creation of a government-controlled health co-op as part of comprehensive health care reform.

The American people have decisively rejected the notion of a “public plan” that would unfairly compete with private sector health insurance companies. As a purely cosmetic fallback maneuver, the White House in recent days has said that an alternative path might be found in the idea of a “co-op” controlled by the government. This is a distinction without a difference.

- A public plan is a health insurance entity owned and controlled by the government—and so is a government co-op.

- A public plan would be subsidized both implicitly and explicitly by the government, creating an uneven playing field in any health insurance “competition”—and so would a government co-op.

- A public plan would be aided by crippling new regulations and bureaucratic health boards that would undermine free market health insurance delivery—and so would a government co-op.

- A public plan would require hundreds of billions annually in new taxes, spending, and debt—and so would a government co-op.

- A public plan would be designed in such a way that most Americans would be funneled into it over time—and so would a government co-op.

- A public plan would have to ration in order to contain out-of-control health care costs—and so would a government co-op.

- A public plan would involve the use of tax dollars to violate health care workers’ conscience rights and legal protections for the most vulnerable of Americans, including the unborn and the elderly—and so would a government co-op.

In short, a public plan and a government-run co-op are the same thing, with only a different name to separate them. The Obama Administration has not taken the public
plan off the table, as they will be the first to tell you. What they won’t tell you is that they have merely changed its label.

Sincerely,

J. Bradley Jansen
Center for Financial Privacy and Human Rights

Thomas Henry, President
RealCare Insurance Marketing, Inc.

Susan Carlson
American Civil Rights Union

Richard A Matthews
DMCO

Karen Kerrigan
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council

Wendy Wright
Concerned Women for America

Beverly Gossage
HSA Benefits Counseling

John Vellines
Health Savings Administrators

Mario Lopez
Hispanic Leadership Fund

Grover Norquist
Americans for Tax Reform

Merrill Matthews
Council for Affordable Health Insurance

Gary Aldrich
CNP Action, Inc.

Phyllis Schlafly
Eagle Forum

Tom McClusky
FRC Action
Dave Stewart
Webb and Greer

Marjorie Dannenfelser
Susan B. Anthony List

Larry Cirignano
Catholic Activist

Steven Mosher
Population Research International

Chris Slattery
Expectant Mother Care – EMC FrontLine Pregnancy Centers

Thomas Glessner
National Institute of Family and Life Advocates

Mary Anne Hackett
Catholic Citizens of Illinois

Charles T. Kenny
The Right Brain People

David Stevens, MD
Christian Medical Association

Samuel E. Ericsson
Advocates International

Kristan Hawkins
Students for Life America

Ralph Weber
Route 3 Benefits

Mark Kellen
Association of American Physicians and Surgeons

Kerri Toloczko
Institute for Liberty

Dave Racer
FreeMarketHealthCare.com
Michelle Morin
Coalition for a Conservative Majority, Colorado Springs Chapter

Tim Phillips
Americans for Prosperity

Fred Eckel
Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International

Melanie Freimuth
Human Life Alliance

Ryan Ellis
American Shareholders’ Association

Karen Malec
Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer

Peggy Hartshorne
Heartbeat International

Lew Uhler
The National Tax Limitation Committee

Tom Schatz
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste

David Ridenour
The National Center for Public Policy Research

Amy Ridenour
Americans for the Preservation of Liberty

James Acklin
Healthcare Reform Collaboratory

Duane Parde
National Taxpayers Union

Jim Martin
60 Plus

Alabama Policy Institute

Kelsey Zahourek
Property Rights Alliance
Marie Bowen
Presbyterians Pro-Life

Jim Backlin
Christian Coalition

Jeffrey Mazzella
Center for Individual Freedom

Kevin Sampson
Health Benefits Associates

Dennis E. Whitfield
American Conservative Union

Sandra Fabry
Center for Fiscal Accountability

Colin Hanna
Let Freedom Ring

D. Paul Caprio
Family PAC-Illinois

Patrick Hughes
STOP-IT

Morton Blackwell
Conservative Leadership PAC

C. Preston Noell III
Tradition, Family, Property, Inc.

Andrea Lafferty
Traditional Values Coalition