



# Economic Affairs Interim Committee

## 59th Montana Legislature

PO BOX 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706  
(406) 444-3064  
FAX (406) 444-3036

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September 12, 2006

The Honorable Max Baucus  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-2602

VIA Fax: 202-224-2651

Dear Senator Baucus:

The Economic Affairs Committee of the Montana Legislature has voted to strongly urge the Montana Congressional Delegation to work for systemwide national health care reform. The effort, as stated in a September 11, 2006, presentation by Dr. Henry Simmons of the National Coalition on Health Care (NCHC), must be national and address in a coordinated, not piecemeal, fashion:

- the rapidly escalating cost of health care;
- the increasing number of Americans without health care insurance coverage; and
- problems with a uniform quality of health care.

Dr. Simmons, NCHC president, impressed on the Economic Affairs Committee the urgency of the need for reform because the escalation of health care costs is negatively impacting America's economic progress for employers, investors, and employees as well as America's global corporate competitiveness. States can only do so much. Montana has taken steps to improve purchasing pools, insure small businesses, address malpractice reforms, and provide health insurance coverage for more children. It is time for Congress to act on a uniform health care reform that will address costs, coverage, quality, and consistency among states without preempting the states' rights to promote innovation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Keane".

Representative Jim Keane  
Chair, Economic Affairs Committee

cc: Senator Conrad Burns  
Congressman Dennis Rehberg