



## U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2020

Dr. Phillip Swagel  
Director  
Congressional Budget Office  
402 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Dr. Swagel:

Ensuring access to quality, affordable health care remains one of the greatest policy challenges of our time. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was a historic step forward, as it provided health and economic security to millions of Americans who were previously uninsured. While the ACA gave us a strong foundation on which to build, there is still more work to be done to achieve the goal of quality, affordable health care for all Americans. In 2018, [nearly 28 million](#) Americans were uninsured, and that number is on the rise. Millions more have health insurance coverage, but still struggle with medical bills and the high costs of prescription drugs.

For these reasons, members of Congress are exploring proposals that would build on the achievements of the ACA and achieve the goal of quality, affordable health care for all Americans. These universal coverage proposals encompass a wide array of options, including a single-payer system, a Medicare/Medicaid buy-in, a public option, premium support for private insurance, among others.

Therefore, we request that the Congressional Budget Office prepare a report that identifies and draws comparisons between different policy approaches for achieving universal coverage. The report should focus on policies under which virtually all Americans would be enrolled in a health insurance plan or be otherwise financially protected against high-cost medical events. It should discuss which design elements are essential to achieve universal coverage, and which elements could vary under different approaches. In particular, it should discuss how each approach could provide coverage to individuals who do not otherwise actively enroll in private or public health coverage.

The report should focus on the general structure of the different approaches, rather than choose a particular specification, to recognize that they could all be implemented in different ways.

Although the approaches would not be specific enough for CBO to provide a quantitative estimate of the effects of each approach, to the extent feasible, the report should provide a qualitative assessment of the likely effects of each approach on major outcomes. Those outcomes should include premiums, cost-sharing, employment-based coverage, other private coverage, and public coverage. Where possible, the report should cite examples of the approaches in proposed legislation or proposals by outside groups.

The staff contact for this request is Emily King, who can be reached at 202-226-7200.

Sincerely,



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John A. Yarmuth  
Chairman, Committee on the Budget



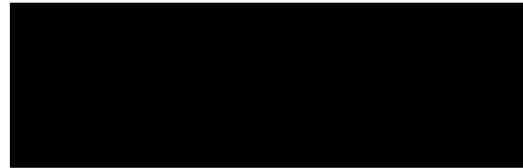
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Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



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Susan Wild  
Member of Congress