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VETERANS' AFFAIRS
Oversight

August 14, 2009

Congressman John Kline
101 West Burnsville Parkway, Suite 201
Burnsville, MN 55337

Dear John,

I hope this letter finds you doing well during the August District Work Period. As you know, the cost of health care is rising faster than the incomes of hard-working families in Minnesota. This is unsustainable. That is why fixing health insurance is on the minds of our constituents and a main topic of conversation around the kitchen table and at coffee shops.

I have heard from people in our state who want to have a meaningful, civil discussion about what health insurance reform will mean for them, their families and employers. They want all of us in elected office to listen to them and get this reform bill done right.

John, I have an idea for you. I would like to invite you to participate in a town hall with me here in Minnesota's 1st Congressional District on Thursday August 20th at 6:00 pm. In return, I would be happy to join you at a town hall in your district next week or in September. These events would be free and open to the public, we would hear from all sides of the argument, and the discussion would be constructive and civil, allowing us to hear the concerns and ideas of ordinary constituents.

As the ranking member of the House Education and Labor Committee, you are playing an important role in Congress's consideration of health insurance improvements. This would be a continuation of the letter you and I, along with the entire Minnesota Congressional Delegation, sent to President Obama on July 22 urging him to fix the broken Medicare reimbursement formula and reward Minnesota for its "low-cost, high-quality" delivery of health care.

Our constituents share a common bond. Our districts are next to each other and we each have a large number of constituents who work and are treated at Mayo Clinic, the state's largest private employer who last year lost \$840 million because of our broken system. We know that the outcome of the health care reform debate will have an impact on our regional economy long into the future.

I sincerely hope you will accept my invitation to join me August 20th. Again, in return, I would be happy to join you at a town hall in your district next week or in September. I have asked my staff to contact your staff immediately to work out the details. I look forward to your reply and speaking with you soon.

Sincerely,

Tim Walz
Member of Congress