

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 29, 2012

The Honorable Nathan Deal
Governor of Georgia
Suite 203, State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Deal:

As U.S. Representatives for the State of Georgia, our foremost concern is for the health and wellbeing of the millions of Georgians we represent. It is with their wellbeing in mind that we request that you accept federal assistance to expand Georgia's Medicaid program.

As you know, the Supreme Court recently upheld the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The law includes a major expansion of state Medicaid programs starting in 2014, extending health insurance coverage to more than 600,000 currently uninsured people in Georgia by 2019. The Medicaid expansion in the ACA covers these poor and low-income adults by expanding Medicaid to 133 percent of the poverty line (\$25,390 for a family of three). The Supreme Court's ruling gave states the choice of accepting federal assistance to expand Medicaid or rejecting that assistance, which could leave millions of Americans without access to health insurance.

The Medicaid expansion is the right thing to do and it is a good deal for Georgia. According to the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute:

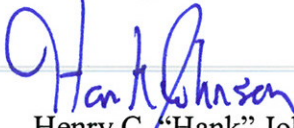
"The Affordable Care Act provides full federal funding for Georgia's expanded coverage for three years. After the third year, the federal government is responsible for more than 90 percent of the costs of covering individuals who are newly eligible to Medicaid. Over the first six years of the expansion (2014-2019), the federal government will bear nearly all of the new Medicaid costs in Georgia and contribute more than \$14.5 billion to the state's health care sector."

In Georgia, working people are currently eligible for Medicaid only if their incomes do not exceed 50% of the federal poverty level (or about \$9,500 for a family of three), while adults without dependent children are not currently eligible at any income level. As a result, 55% of adults below poverty are uninsured in Georgia, compared to 21% of children from families below the poverty level. This is unacceptable, and leads to poor health outcomes and increased costs as these Georgians seek care at the emergency room for untreated illness. As you make your decision, we urge you to take a comprehensive view and consider the savings from better health outcomes.

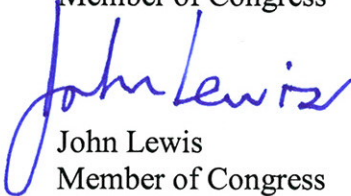
We are disappointed that 32 states and the District of Columbia have more inclusive eligibility standards than Georgia. We encourage you to accept federal assistance to expand Georgia's

Medicaid program and extend health insurance to over 600,000 needy Georgians, including many that we are proud to represent.

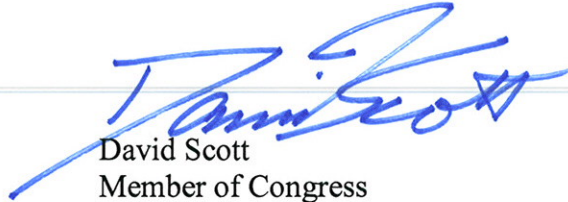
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hank Johnson".

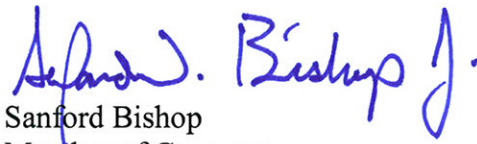
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Lewis".

John Lewis
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Scott".

David Scott
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sanford Bishop".

Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

Cc: David Cook, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Community Health