Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 19, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

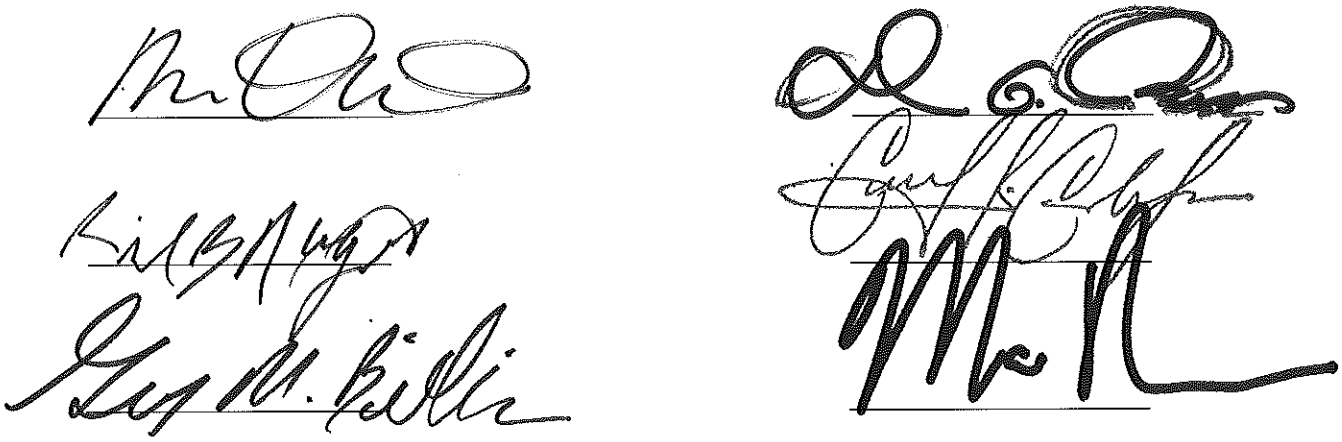
Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to request your immediate action to reverse the U.S. Health and Human Services' (HHS) decision to end to the Low Income Pool (LIP) program in Florida. This federal program has been working to help low-income families in our state access healthcare for many years until HHS recently told state officials that their decision to continue funding was "linked" to the state's decision to expand Medicaid under Obamacare.

Florida hospitals are at risk of losing $1.5 billion a year if LIP funding is allowed to expire. If the funding is not in place on June 30, 2015 Jackson Memorial would lose $237.2 million; Tampa General would lose $85.2 million; University of Florida Gainesville would lose $106.7 million; University of Florida Jacksonville would lose $94.4 million; Orlando Health would lose $54.8 million; and Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach would lose $16.2 million.

The Supreme Court's decision in *NFIB v. Sebelius* made clear that the federal government could not withhold federal funding in order to coerce states into expanding Medicaid. HHS's refusal to continue LIP funding in Florida because the state has not expanded Medicaid is an inappropriate overreach and in direct contradiction to the Supreme Court decision. (Additionally, the Navigant study conducted at the direction of HHS found that the population covered under LIP is not identical to the population that would be served under the expansion of Obamacare.)

We are requesting your immediate action to reverse HHS's decision to end LIP funding. The well-being of Florida's low-income families will remain in jeopardy until your administration approves funding for these vital health services.

Sincerely,

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