



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

August 6, 2009

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I applaud your efforts to reform the health care system in our country, and I look forward to supporting them in any way that I can.

I am writing today, however, to urge you to correct an unfairness in the current system that adversely affects the residents of Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico participates in all the federal and federal-state programs that will serve as the building blocks for national health care reform – Medicaid, Medicare, and CHIP – but with significant differences and disparities. For example, Puerto Rico bears the burden of paying for more than 80% of its Medicaid program, while states with similar demographics pay only 20%. There are also a number of disparities in the treatment of Puerto Rican residents under the Medicare and CHIP programs. As a result, too many providers are not adequately compensated for their services, and too many patients receive inadequate care.

Like you, I strongly believe that all United States citizens should benefit from the reform of the health care system, and that all citizens should have equal access to quality care. That is why I urge you to ensure that the residents of Puerto Rico are treated the same under all the federal health care programs.

Again, thank you for your leadership, and I look forward to working with you to bring quality health care to all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael R. Bloomberg'.

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

MRB:wd