

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 6, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

We write to urge you to prioritize reducing families' medical expenses as we look towards end-of-year legislation. If Congress does not act by the end of the year, millions of families with high medical costs will see their taxes increase when they file their taxes for this year.

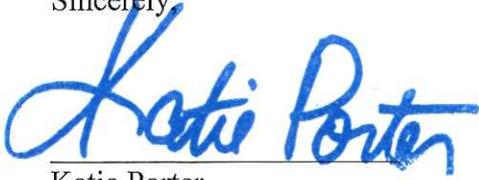
The medical expense tax deduction allows families to deduct unreimbursed medical expenses if those expenses exceed a certain amount of their income. The threshold to claim this deduction rose from 7.5% to 10% of income at the beginning of 2019. Without action, many Americans will discover that they no longer qualify to use this important deduction when they file their taxes. Even those who qualify will see the taxes they owe increased.

The medical expense tax deduction provides critical relief for Americans by offsetting the cost of serious or chronic illnesses, unexpected sickness or injuries, or long-term care and assisted living. The deduction is particularly important for older Americans and individuals with disabilities, with nearly 40% of individuals claiming the deduction estimated to be age 65 or older. In addition, the deduction primarily helps lower- and middle-income families. According to AARP, nearly 70% of individuals claiming the deduction have incomes between \$23,100 and \$113,000.

American families are already buried under medical debt. According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, rates of third-party collections for medical debt have risen to 58% in 2018. In addition, about half of people who file for bankruptcy cite medical issues as a primary reason. Too many Americans have already been forced to ration or delay needed prescriptions and medical services due to high costs. Congress must act to preserve the full benefits of the medical expense tax deduction for those struggling with high medical costs.

We respectfully request that any end-of-year legislation reinstate the 7.5% threshold for the medical expense tax deduction. We look forward to working with you on this priority.

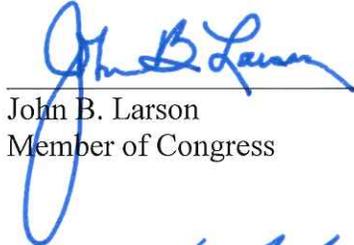
Sincerely,



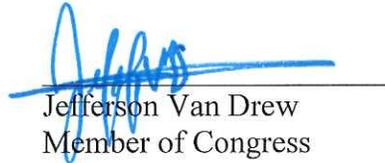
Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress



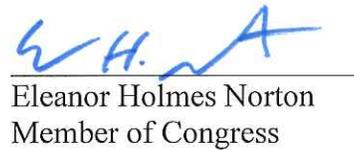
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



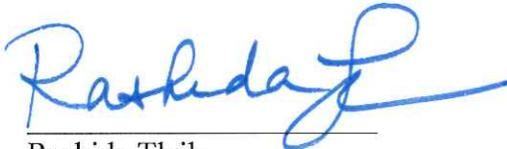
Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



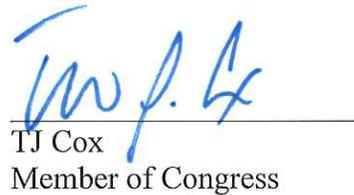
Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



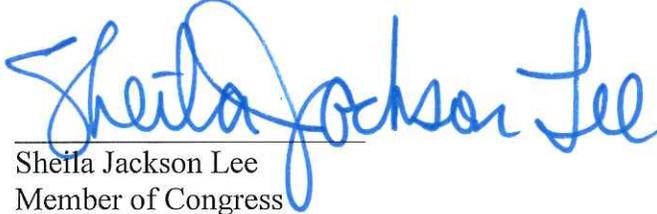
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



TJ Cox
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



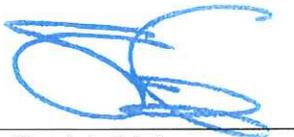
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



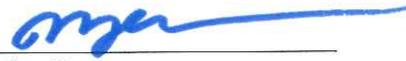
Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



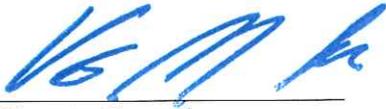
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



Max Rose
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



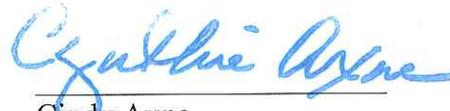
André Carson
Member of Congress



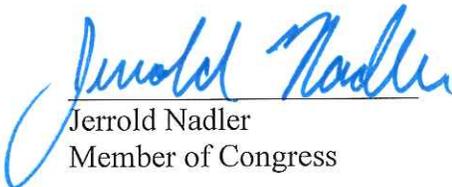
Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Cindy Axne
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress