

## TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



GENE WU  
DISTRICT 137

December 16, 2013

Chairman Darrel Issa  
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings  
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
2471 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Issa and Ranking Member Cummings,

As representatives of our respective constituencies, we have a responsibility to assure that our constituents have access to adequate health care. As you know, Texas has the highest rate of uninsured in the nation with more than six million Texans lacking health insurance coverage. This has created significant problems in how we finance and deliver health care to all Texans, not just the uninsured families. Without comprehensive medical coverage, people seek care in emergency rooms. This drives up the cost for everyone.

The Affordable Care Act provides new benefits, rights and protections to ensure affordable and quality health care. This is especially important for the low-to-middle income families who make up the majority of my own district and face a critical challenge of affording healthcare for their families. I speak on their behalf to advocate for their health and wellbeing.

Since the rollout of healthcare.gov, there has been a surge in enrollment numbers. In a recent report, over 14,000 Texans have signed up for plans. Navigators and assisters are charged with the important task of helping people obtain the health coverage they need. These people are working at hospitals, community health centers, and social service agencies to educate people about the new options previously unavailable to them.

It is unfortunate that today's hearing will focus on challenging the law instead of discussing the critical need for the Affordable Care Act. Creating more barriers for those most in need of health coverage is counterintuitive and unproductive. Our ultimate goal must be to support constructive efforts to help assist families to find health coverage, and it is essential that we work together, at the Federal and State level, to effectively implement this law.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my comments with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Wu", written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature is the official seal of the Texas House of Representatives, which is circular and features a five-pointed star in the center, surrounded by the words "THE STATE OF TEXAS" and "HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES".