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La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative
8th District

The Honorable Danny K. Davis
2159 Rayburn House Office Building
United State House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 23, 2009

Dear Representative Davis,

At this important time in the history of our country, I commend you for your hard work on H.R.3200. I know this landmark legislation cannot pass without the support of other members of Congress. I have asked the members of the Illinois House of Representatives to join me in supporting H.R. 569 to urge other members of Congress to support America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009, which aims to provide affordable, quality health care for all Americans and reduce the growth in health care spending.

A Gallup Poll released yesterday shows that one in six Americans -- 16% -- say they have no health insurance. This matches official estimates of some 47 million uninsured Americans. Specific to Illinois, high costs block access to care: 13 percent of people in Illinois report not visiting a doctor due to high costs. The overall quality of care in Illinois is rated as "Weak" by DHHS's Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Preventive measures that could keep Illinoisans healthier and out of the hospital are deficient, leading to problems at any age:

- 21 percent of children in Illinois are obese – ranking 4th highest in the United States.
- 22 percent of women over the age of 50 in Illinois have not received a mammogram in the past two years.
- 41 percent of men over the age of 50 in Illinois have never had a colorectal cancer screening.

In the Eighth District, which I represent, health disparities suffered by ethnic minorities are even more apparent, and meaningful health care reform is needed to address these disparities. I urge Congress to pass health care reform this year. I look forward to working with you to achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative-Eighth District